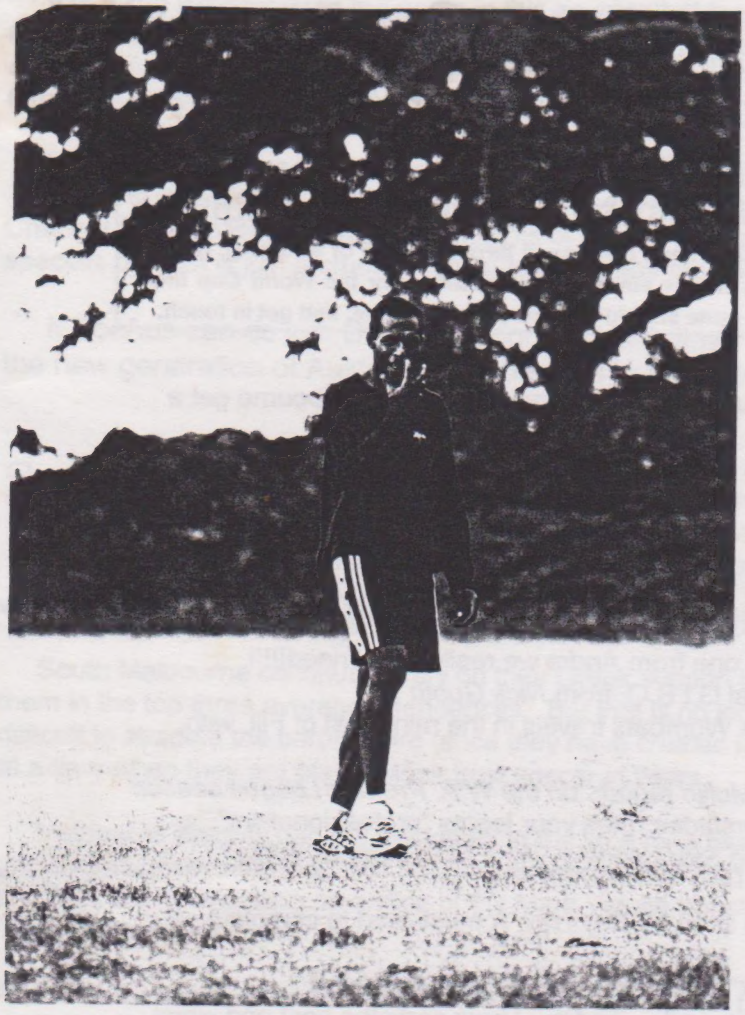
Studs UP

Issue 34
Oct / Nov 1998
$Au3.00

The Australian Fans' Perspective



*The man who picked off Australia

Ravuama Madigi talks about that goal!!!

+

Turmoil in Vic, Chaos in NSW, Despair in WA.

Just another month in Oz Football !!!!!!!

More BIG Interviews:

- Frank Parsons
-David Zdrilic
-Mark Burton (Grrrr....)

And much, much more!!!!!!

Socka **T**erns **U**p **D**e **S**toopidest, **U**namajanitave **P**eepol!?!
P O Box 53, Oakleigh South 3167
Subscriptions: $18 for six issues, $32 for twelve.
Make all cheques/money orders payable to 'Studs Up'

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Deadline for S.U.35 is 10/12/1998

Note: Contributions can be E-mailed to: studsup@ozemail.com.au
Or via our website at
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~studsup/first1.htm

Disclaimer:
This is a FANZINE, and should be viewed accordingly!!
The opinions expressed in these bits of paper have been developed through years of watching, reading, playing , thinking, sleeping and generally living soccer since Oz last qualified for the World Cup finals. Therefore, no offense or offence is intended and none should be taken. Read, digest, and get in touch.

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"Win a Pele Video" Competition

Well, as we were so underwhelmed by your responses, S.U. has picked a winner from the one we got!!!!!!! Congratulations goes to **Mr. D Smith** of **Pt Melbourne** for his lovely and accurate acronym for our contents page (as seen above). Sorry Mr. Smith, but as we were really looking for a new catch phrase to replace "*The Australian Fans Perspective*", we can only reward you with the video. Sorry no 2nd or 3rd prizes as there was no other entries.

A time for remembrance - for those who can't

The 25th anniversary of Jimmy Mackay's goal, which propelled the Australian soccer team to the World Cup finals for the first and last time, passed virtually unnoticed. The irony wasn't lost on Studs Up. It seems that a significant number of Australian soccer fans (probably the majority, in fact) simply do not remember the event. In many cases they were not even born. The fact that the game was not televised in many areas of Australia doesn't help, and pseudo-historians are forced to rely on newspaper reports and players' memories for details of the match.

It is a sad indictment on the game in this country that the three most important matches played by our national team are not even available for sale on video cassette. The next time you are in a video rental store or department store, try counting the number of AFL approved videos or thugby (both types) videos. Don't forget your abacus.

Many fans have maded enquiries as to how to obtain footage of these events. Unfortunately we can't help. The closest we've got is reports of the games in private hands in Germany (with Spanish commentary!). Channel Seven have shown brief highlights of the '74 WC games on their occasional 15/25/40 years of sport specials but that is just a crumb when surely the fans are entitled to the whole sandwich.

If SocAus can do just ONE thing right in 1999, it will be to remember the heroes of 1974, and give the new generation of Australian soccer fans to opportunity to see what the big deal was all about.

Southern Discomfort

Melbourne is a weird place. Just ask anyone from Sydney. Or Adelaide, or Brisbane. But where else would quality soccer teams attract such ordinary attendances?

South Melbourne continue to rely on their Greek support base, and in the past that was sufficient to keep them in the top three average attendances. But that is no longer the case and South Melbourne are finding to difficult to straddle the barbed wire fence they have created for themselves. Their attendances have stagnated at a time when they are playing their best soccer in years.

Melbourne Knights had the best team in the land for a few years there and should've done enough at the grass roots level in the Western Suburbs to ensure their long term success. It appears that hasn't happened, and they are now waiting on a slice of the Mark Viduka transfer fee to finish a grandstand that will never be filled anyway.

And then there is Carlton. If anyone knows why the second best team in the country (based on last year's performances) can only attract an average of bugger-all can they please ring Lou Sticca. Is it the name? Is it the venue? Is it the kick-off time? Is it the cricket pitch? Is it the $14 admission price? It can't be the players. Or the style of play. Teams may come to Optus Oval and be happy to look for a point but Carlton are good enough to break them down if they maintain their patience. Why wouldn't people go for a look?

It's not just the NSL clubs with concerns either. The women aren't playing in the Ansett Summer Series and then there is the news that the Vic Junior Leagues Management Committee has resigned en masse.

If there's anyone out there with a brain and a steel-capped boot can they please get in contact. We might even provide the airfare...

Nov 6 (US time), 1998 - Spartan Stadium, San Jose, California
USA 0
Australia 0
Temp: 49F (crap) Weather: Wet & Cold (crapper) Ref: Mike Seifert, Canada (even crapper)

Before we begin, some quotes regarding the pitch.
"Not up to the international standard" - Seamus Malin, ESPN commentator.
"Absolutely atrocious" - Allen Hopkins, ESPN sideline commentator.
Got the picture?

Or perhaps you didn't. The Seven Network decided against doing what they needed to do to ensure Aussie fans could watch the match on free-to-air. Time to visit those Optusised relatives again, although Uncle Reg and Auntie Mavis were at least pleased that we didn't knock on the door at midnight again...

Once again, Oz did itself no favours in the PR department by not having the players' names on the back of the shirts. It's a perennial SU whinge, but the arguments are no less relevant today. Remember, it is an aim of Soccer Australia for our national representatives to become household names. Ironic, isn't it.

Blanco's team selection was a little puzzling, although the late additions of Viduka and Popovic were understandably, too tough to resist. The decision to play Foxe, rather than Colosimo, at sweeper, must be seen as a pointer to 2002, but the subsequent positioning of Colosimo at left wing-back, combined with Emerton's unusual reluctance to get forward, reduced the visitors' attacking options.

Both teams had experience at the back and up front, so the game was always likely to be won in the midfield, where it was going to be a case of which batch of debutants would adapt more readily to international football.
The patchwork line-ups and the standard of the playing surface meant both sets of supporters couldn't discount the possibility of a hiding should their midfield not get to grips with the occasion.

Lassiter had maybe the best (open play) chance of the game in just the third minute. A long clearance was flicked on by McBride and when Tobin made a complete hash of the header back to Petkovic, Lassiter pounced but could only smash his volley straight at the advancing goalkeeper.

For Australia, Viduka cam closest when he smashed an indirect free-kick into the US wall from six metres out. Viduka's response?..... *"Maybe I could have hit it harder."*
Personally, I've always thought you'd have a better chance of scoring by aiming just under the crossbar. If it stays low, some poor defender will have to risk decapitation in order to save a goal, rather than just wince and rub his shinpad. But if you have to keep it low, at least put it at testicle height. If that doesn't run defenders sideways, nothing will!

Viduka was named Snickers® Man-of-the-Match for Oz although Eddie Pope did an admirable job under the circumstances to ensure Viduk's chances weren't golden. The soon-to-be-Celt combined dangerously with Mori on a number of occasions but it may have been beneficial to expose Curcija to the action. Along with a couple of others as well, with Blanco's substitution policy only coming into effect after the attempted assassination of Colosimo in the 89st minute.

There are a number of words available to describe Llamosa's atttempted de-limbing of Colosimo, but tackle ain't one of 'em. Carlos Llamosa, a Colombian native, had an injury plagued 1998 MLS season, so maybe he felt it was time to dish out some pain. Perhaps he was just stuffed after running around for an hour and a half. Either way, the, virtual homicide which resulted in his expulsion was probably the worst attempt to play the ball seen at international level, ever. There, we can't make it any more blunt than that.

A nil all draw was viewed as satisfactory by both camps yet the overall feeling was that the whole episode had been a waste of time due to the state of the pitch. Australia certainly had the edge in attack and midfield, and most experts tended to agree that in boxing parlance, the Aussies had a comfortable points victory.

Which temporarily secures Blanco's position, if indeed one still exists. The Socceroos now go into hibernation until the middle of next year when a team will be thrown together to take on some form of World XI in a showpiece match at the new Olympic Stadium at Homebush.

Unless SocAus wins Tattslotto before then, Raul and Les will be sitting together again on the bench hoping that our Euroroos can gel sufficiently in the short time available to avoid copping a caning from some of the world's best. We can only hold our breath in anticipation.

Us: Petkovic, Foxe, Tobin, Popovic, Emerton, Wehrman, Colosimo (Bove 91), Skoko, Neill, Mori, Viduka
U.S.: Thornton, Agoos, Pope, Llamosa, Jones, Lewis (Olsen 73), Mathis (Chung 69), Williams, Lassiter (Brown 92), McBride, Moore
Cards: Us: Skoko (y), Mori (y) US: Mathis (y), Lassiter (y), Llamosa (R)
==========

OLYROOS SQUAD TO FACE CHINA

Two matches against the touring Chinese Olympic squad will take place on:
Wednesday, November 25 - Marconi Stadium
Friday, November 27 - Brandon Park
Make sure you try and get there.

According to the official SocAus media release:
"The squad will assemble in Sydney on November 23, after the round 7 EC commitments have been met and will be release the morning of Saturday November 28, 1998."

Watch out for a number of late withdrawals from the squad as coaches look to keep their charges fresh for their Round 8 commitments...
Anyway, those lucky enough to perhaps play 4 matches in ten days are:

Tansel Baser (Sth Melb)
Marco Bresciano (Carl)
Jacob Burns (Syd Utd)
Simon Colosimo (Carl)
Jason Culina (Syd Olymp)
Michael Curcija (Sth Melb)
Joe Didulica (Melb K)
Brett Emerton (Syd Olymp)
Hayden Foxe (Sanf Hirosh)
Michael Garcia (Perth)
Carlos Gonzalez (Syd Olym)
Danny Milosevic (Perth)
Kosta Salapasidis (Woll)
Sebastian Sinozic (Woll)
Zeljko Susa (Melb K)
Andy Vargas (Gipps)
Kasey Wehrman (Bris)
Ivan Zelic (Canb)
Stand-by: Nick Carle (Syd Olymp), Dragi Nastevski (MK), Noel Spencer (Woll), Nathan Wildy (Ad Sharks)

Auckland Kings - A misnomer in the making?

Talk of a New Zealand club side entering the current Ericsson Cup season was really starting to gather momentum earlier this year, before certain parties procrastinated so long the deal tripped over one deadline too many and the concept had to be put back on the shelf for another year.

Which was no bad thing. Witness the education Carlton treated itself to, using the extra twelve months (remember, they were originally going to commence EC duties with Collingwood before commonsense prevailed) to fully acquaint themselves with the requirements of a successful expansion team.

So could it be that the Auckland Kings will be ready to unleash themselves on Oz soil in October next year? Or could it be that the New Zealand national team will be looking to get two years worth of solid practice matches before getting down to the business of qualifying for the 2002 World Cup finals?

If an article in the latest Sitter! (see Bulletin Board) is any indication, the latter is certainly the preferred option of New Zealand Soccer technical director Roger Wilkinson. Which could mean bugger all, of course, as Wilkinson's relationship with NZS CEO Bob Patterson has deteriorated to the point where Wilkinson has lodged a formal protest with the Employment Tribunal over his treatment by Patterson. As they may well say, 'Wetch thes spece'..

But if Wilkinson remains as technical director it is fair to assume he would have a significant input into the initial direction of the Kings. Therefore, his 'vision' should not go unnoticed on this side of the Tasman. (The following is re-printed verbatim with full permission from Sitter!)

INTERNATIONAL CLUB PROGRAMME (AUCKLAND KINGS)

Mission Statement: To develop a well-managed and profitable club that provides a full time environment from which our best players can develop and compete at an international level.

Aims:

- The All Whites to form the basis of the team. Suggest eight All Whites and three overseas stars.
- The team to play in the summer time Australian league.
- Players to be full time professionals in order to improve their overall playing standard.
- The National team coaching staff should be the club coaches to enable them to implement their philosophies and style in a full time environment.
- The club to run a second team that is based around the NZ Under 20 team and which plays in our domestic national league (winter).
- The U20 players will be part time, training 4-5 evenings a week. They should be encouraged to take University/Polytechnic courses so as to create our own type of 'American University' system.
- The club would also have an Under 17 team that would compete in a Regional (North) Summer Youth League.
- The club should be run on a sound business basis with realistic wage and expenses structure. Part of the club psychology should be the development and transfer of players to the lucrative European market. This would enable the players to develop further and would generate much needed income to support future development.
- Soccer New Zealand should have a substantial financial and managerial input into the club.
- Identify a location where the tertiary infrastructure is convenient for the players.

Food for thought? Enough to choke on, in fact. Initial media reports suggested the application originally submitted by the Auckland consortium took on a far different mood, so it will be interesting to check out the reaction of the SocAus board if the All Whites take the field against the likes of Canberra and Newcastle in twelve months time.

Get the Book out

Red Card to South Melbourne Hellas for allowing Goran Lozanovski to sit out his week's suspension in Germany. Confused? Loza got himself sent off for a typically *'Goran when he's cracked the shits'* tackle during the debacle at Marconi Stadium. His reward? A trip to Germany for a few days trial with Arminia Bielefeld, recent home to the likes of Hayden Foxe and Danny Milosevic.

So, instead of being forced to run around all week with the wrong coloured training bib, and then urged to sit in the stand and provide moral and vocal support to his championship-winning teammates, Goran heads off on another potential money-spinning trial.

If this is what is meant by 'suspension earned him a holiday", can we expect to see an increase in crude tackles as Christmas approaches?

Yellow card to the caterers at Optus Oval for their total lack of concern for the paying customer.

The set-up (or lack of one) reached a new low for the home game against Canberra when there were NO food or drink outlets open before half-time in the curtain-raiser.

With the Bendigo youth team providing little interest for the three-year-olds in tow, it was time to break into the secret stash until sanity prevailed at half time and it was business as usual.

Not for long though. By half time in the main game it was, er, no business as usual.

Mind you, at least when they open you have the privilege of paying extravagant prices ($3.10 for a small bucket of chips, 40c for a carry tray) and you're even allowed to buy two alcoholic drinks at a time. Okay, so they're only catering to two (thousand) men and a dog. But as Eddie Thomson once said at a certain inquiry, "You wouldn't treat your dog like that..."

First **yellow card** of the season to the new Television Deal as the first REALLY big game of the year, Perth Glory v South Melbourne Hellas, goes untelevised. The ABC was already booked into Somers St for the Croatian derby (now THAT would have rattled the people meters!) while Optus opted for the Wollongong v Brisbane clash. No doubt they'll be more yellows later in the season....

Yellow card to Alan Hunter who rotates between gigs for the ABC and Sports Australia these days, although if his research assistants don't help him out a bit he may not be rotating much longer. While commenting on the Brisbane v Carlton clash he noted that David Cervinski had been promoted to the starting line-up to replace Con Anthopoulos. Er, Sorry Al. The vacancy in the first eleven arose through Joe Tricarico's send off the previous week against Northern Spirit. Anthopoulos hadn't started all year. And this from a man who was CAPTAIN of the Blues last season.

And finally, we can't go past a **Yellow card** for Velimir Kupresak. Fancy getting sent off in your 200th game (against Marconi, Oct 17). And after he'd received flowers before the game as well! Nice diving save, though, Vel....

P.S. In response to the **Red Card** in our last ish re: season tickets in Queensland, came this....
The four orange tickets that season ticket holders received to cover the first games were printed on 'cheap' slightly thicker than normal paper. They were not numbered and anybody with a devious mind would not find it difficult to photocopy them and reproduce enough to cause all sorts of havoc.

Worse, there were hundreds of free tickets distributed which were numbered and looked to have a better quality than the season ticket holders and certainly would have been nigh on impossible to photocopy for the ordinary supporter.

The certain sponsor that you refer to is now the Chief Administrator of the Strikers as well as maintaining his printing business.

Hope that sets the record straight(er).

Plenty of black, not much gold

From Searlais Mullin

Football in Western Australia is in for a long-awaited shake-up, with a three-member government task force charged with sorting out the mess.

The situation in WA at the moment is a sorry one. The code is supposed to be governed by the Soccer Administration of WA (SAWA), which was formed as a breakaway from the old SFWA in 1991. SAWA put together the Professional Soccer League (PSL) which ran in opposition to the old league for two years. Eventually the SFWA caved in and merged with SAWA. A new league was created, the Professional Soccer Federation of WA (PSF).

But of course it all came apart again very quickly. The PSF went bust in 1995, underwent restructuring and renamed itself Soccer West Coast (SWC). SWC, the WA Amateur and Social Soccer Association (WAASSA) and the Junior Soccer Association (JSA) are all supposed to be under the umbrella of SAWA. However, all have become increasingly independent. They are now autonomous to such an extent that SAWA is bereft of
financial support. SAWA is so starved of money that they've been operating without a chief executive for four years now.

The animosity is keenest between SAWA and the SWC, with the former whingeing that they're always blamed for everything that goes wrong when they're not actually doing anything. And to quote SAWA chairperson David Nurse from the 1998 SWC Yearbook:

"Until all of the parts can agree that a single representative administrative system speaking with one voice to government, sponsors, marketing opportunities, National and International Companies and Soccer Australia then we will continue to be a motley group of factions for whom the Code is something with which to massage our own personal egos."

SWC is little healthier than SAWA. In 1997 president Nick MacCallum actually managed to resign from his position twice within twelve months. His successor lasted only a couple of months before resigning himself. By this stage the vice-president and chairman had also resigned, and the organisation was run by acting vice-president Vince Versace. Versace has since become president proper, but SWC has rarely been anything better than a shambles.

The saddest aspect of this farce is that SAWA, SWC, WAASSA and the JSA all share the same building (Perry Lakes Stadium). SAWA and SWC even have the same phone number!!!

The State Government (namely Minister of Sport Norman Moore) has decided to step in and sort out the mess. The three member task force consists of:

Gavin Fielding - senior commissioner of the WA Industrial Relations Commission

Lydia Dowse - lawyer, former general manager of Sydney Olympic

Lloyd Stewart - businessman, chairman of the WA Lotteries Commission

The task force aims to bring the factions closer together. It will make recommendations on the relationship between the organisations, the management structure of a body (or bodies) to oversee the overall administration, the constitution and rules for such a body and the financial implications and changes to bring all this about successfully.

Naturally Nurse had some very positive remarks for the "West Australian", as SAWA can only benefit from an inquisition. He claims that SAWA have been pushing for such an inquiry for the last two years. No comments yet from SWC and Versace ... yet!

WA's representative in the national league, Perth Glory, is an affiliate member of SAWA (and also resides at Perry Lakes) but won't be much affected by the inquiry as they come under the auspices of Soccer Australia.

Does the task force have any chance of succeeding? History says no. There was a precedent in WA in 1985, well summarised in these two paragraphs from Richard Kreider's "A Soccer Century: A Chronicle of Western Australian Soccer from 1896 to 1996":

"In December 1985, a State Government Task Force was formed to investigate and recommend changes to WA soccer, which would take the game into the 21st century. The board members were Chairman Steve Stacey, Alistair Norwood, L. Smith and P. Gravestock. A 36 page document reported on administrative structures, a new headquarters, a revenue raising policy, marketing and promotional strategies, the development of grounds and facilities, and coaching. Over forty submissions were presented to the Task Force from people like Des Abraham, Alan Beale, Fred Burfitt, Harry Croft, Frank Schaper, Ron Tindall and from soccer associations right around the state. The Task Force recommended many items, including developing a central soccer complex named 'Soccer City', a new competition called the Western Pro League, and substituting ethnic club soccer for district soccer at the high performance level. The SFWA and its competitions would remain, but become amateur.

"The document was presented to the clubs of the SFWA at the December 1986 annual general meeting, and was eventually cast out at a second meeting the following year - despite the promise of funding from the WA Premier Brian Burke and the Labor government toward the 'Soccer City' complex, to the tune of nearly five million dollars on a dollar for dollar basis. It is believed the primary reason for the rejection was that the clubs were fearful of losing control."

So despite a large backing of money, a government genuinely keen to promote the code in WA and the promise of a top quality venue and administrative centre, it was the narrow self-interest of local clubs that prevailed. One could strongly argue that had the recommendations of the 1985 task force been accepted there would be no need for one to take place in 1998. Apart from the recent success of Perth Glory in the NSL, football in WA has not progressed a smidgen in the last thirteen years. The code is still torn asunder by in-fighting, and it will take much more than a list of recommendations to achieve at least a semblance of order.

- *Richard Kreider*, "A Soccer Century: A Chronicle of Western Australian Soccer from 1896 to 1996", SportsWest Media, 1996, p.92

Another One Bites the Dust?

It gives us no pleasure to report that Australian Soccer Time magazine, unleashed on the public just a few months ago, has taken a turn for the worse with the publication unlikely to go past the 5th issue.

There is a familiar ring to the problems involved in getting a new, slightly different soccer publication on the market. Financial hassles are the biggest of course, but there's also the lack of support from the federations (both state and national), many of the NSL clubs, and worst of all, the fans.

At $5 a copy, AST was good value. It provided a meaty coverage of the game in South Australia (something no other national publication has managed to achieve) as well as in-depth interviews with some of the biggest names in Oz soccer. We can only hope the honchos at AST can locate a rescue package. It begs that question again: What DO the fans actually want?

Day 1 in the Life of a Spirit

By Geoff "That's the Spirit" Coy

==========

It seemed an eternity ago that Northern Spirit Football Club was admitted into the National League. For the inaugural fans the last nine months have been a time of frustration while waiting for news to trickle in on player signing's accompanied by gossip, innuendo and the occasional press report. Our saving grace was the establishment of the Spirit Mailing list now nudging some 80 subscribers.

Prior to round one of the EC some northern groupies had trekked around with the team to the countless trial games against local and state league opposition just to get a sniff of action. There was also the family fun day back in July and a supporter's night a few weeks back. Nothing but nothing could come quicker than Friday 9th October and the opening game against Sydney Olympic.

The day before the game my jacket patch arrived via Tancred Fergus. It had the following wording:

NORTHERN SPIRIT
BOB STAND

Too bad I didn't have the suggested denim jacket so I decided that the next best thing was to sew the patch onto my Red Man United polo shirt. I was later to discover that this was a big mistake. Being in the middle of the school holidays and my wife being away with the kids I had no option but to sew the patch onto the back of the shirt my self. I somehow suspect that my wife would have only refused the request. She later sarcastically remarked about its appearance. For anyone guessing, the patch measures 6" x 12" in red and white.

My next task was to make a sign to hang in front of the Bob Stand. I purchased a large roll of material that is used to cover schoolbooks. It was ideal as it's strong and glossy on one side and paper on the other. The only black paint I could find was tyre black so I managed to sketch, then paint the words of my choice.

When finished the sign boldly said:

20 YEARS LATE
BUT
WORTH THE W8

Friday came and the day at work seemed to take forever to pass. The nerves were starting to build up and I was only going to watch. Imagine how the players were feeling. A few phone calls from other Spirit listee's told me that I was not the only one in a state. By 3.30 pm and with 4 hours till kickoff I'd had enough. Being self employed I gave myself the rest of the afternoon off. I went home, got changed, had an early tea and headed down the M2 to Spirit Park (nee North Sydney Oval).

I managed to park the car 5 minutes walk from the ground and strolled over to Percy's bar located in the North Sydney Hotel. Percy's is directly across the road from the ground and proved to be a good vantage point for what was happening. The crowd of mainly parents and children were already starting to build up and there was still 2 hours to kick off.

Already inside Percy's were some of the Bay 23 boys and Spirit listees. Listee Tancred was in a terrible state because the club and Ticketek had failed to post out any of the membership cards and season passes and this would make the task of getting into the ground difficult. We decided to walk over to the ground and get in one of the growing queues and sort out what to do without our tickets.

Temporary ticket booths had been set up and were already selling tickets even though the gates were not due to open until 6pm. The club was passing the buck for the stuff-up so we decided to use our Ticketek receipts to get inside the ground

The queues outside the gates were getting longer and the crowd more restless and impatient. Tancred got more upset when he learned that some of the parents and kids were being directed by the club to sit in the Bob Stand which is Spirit's answer to Perth's Shed (sort of). Julian Farrell started upsetting

some of the Olympic supporters by singing some quaint little ditties. The crowd started chanting "let us" in and "open the gate" and we could hear Merill Bainbridge rehearsing inside the ground.

Finally, the gates opened and the crowd surged forward. Security was non-existent and this slip-up was later to cost the club dearly as Olympic supporters smuggled in and let off flares during the game. I got in without any trouble, rushed through to mark my spot in the Bob Stand without even noticing the merchandise booths and program sellers.

Over at the Bob Stand flags and banners were being erected and I placed my sign directly inside the picket fence. Then it was off to get some refreshments, buy a program and meet up with everybody including Chris Kunz from Canberra and the Breakers contingent consisting of Steve Bradbury, Rui Melor and Dave Morley. A steel reggae band was "strategically" located to one side of the Bob Stand so no matter how hard we tried we found it difficult to get the pre-match singing and chanting going.

The atmosphere was fantastic. The Bob Stand faithful did not stop singing all night. This helped to spread the atmosphere to other parts of the ground. A Mexican wave was successfully started and Olympic supporters threw flares after each goal. Every one knows that Olympic spoiled the party and took the game out 2 - 0. Yet it may seem to those who watched the game on TV that Spirit got everything right on the night except the score. Well, not so.

Sure, nearly 19,000 people turned up on a cold, windy and wet night. Yet the club held a post-mortem at their board meeting the following monday night to sort out problems and complaints. The Spirit e-mail list was flowing with posts and messages on what had "pissed them off" on match night.

For those not at the game, here's a list:

* The Ticketek fiasco
* Long queues outside the entrance gate
* "Cardboard type" people allowed into the Bob Stand
* Lack of toilet facilities
* Program content and layout (piss poor)
* Lack of enthusiasm of program sellers (that's if you could find one)
* Drink queues (at some stages 20 minutes long)
* Reggae band
* Poor quality of PA system

After the game the heavens opened and the crowd disbursed in all directions. I headed back to Percy's to have one or two more for the road. The bar was packed with supporters from every conceivable English football club and a few Scottish ones to boot. With them came every county accent from the length and breadth of the British Isles. Despite the crowd it didn't take long to get served by a barmaid wearing a Northern Spirit "T" shirt.

It was then that my Man. United shirt got me into trouble as I walked passed a group of discerning Arsenal supporters. Pity some people take things so seriously! After about an hour the crowd had thinned out a bit. Then some of the players together with their wives/girlfriends began to arrive. For those of us who stuck around long enough it was a good opportunity to have a chat to Arnold, Slater, Crook and "Smokin" Alan Hunter. It had been a very long 24 hours with a lot packed in. Sure Olympic spoiled the result but not my night. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Bring on the rest of the season.

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Oops!

Bargain bins at newsagents are ocassionally good value, and it's from one such rummage we came across the following from 'The Best Of Wide World Of Sports', a Nine Network production from last year:

"With just another home-and-away series against an Asian team in their way, the Socceroos could almost smell that most elusive of prizes - a berth in international football's most important and most engrossing of tournaments, the World Cup finals". The El Tel experiment had worked.

An interview with David Zdrilic

Continuing the series from *ANDRE KRUGER.*

Hannover 1896, my home town Club, is back in Germanys' second League. That means, I can watch and talk to the Aussies in that Division. The first, of the few, who came to Hannover, was David Zdrilic, the former star from Sydney United. So I moved to the big Niedersachsen Stadium to see Ulm playing. It was an average game, with Zdrilic playing well. He was a danger to Hannovers defence and had a few chances, a good player in a good Team. He looked a little bit overweight, maybe because of the good food in Germany. (äähh)

The game ended in a 1-1 draw, and Ulm was happy, because they are in the top half of the table at the moment. They came straight from the third League, and they surprised everyone with their great performance. After the game, I walked straight up to David.

Andre Krüger: David, welcome to Hannover. What do you think about the German soccer in the second League. Is it stronger than Australia's A-League?

David Zdrilic: Thank you. German Soccer is very exciting and I am happy with my move here. This is a stronger League than the A- League. The players are physically stronger and technically better.

A.K: SSV Ulm is new in this Division, do you think the team can stay at one of the top places?

D.Z: Anything can happen. This is my first season in Germany, so I haven't any experience in this League. However, I think we have a good team and we have the potential to stay in the top places as long as we continue to play with the same consistency.

A.K: In 1997 you were top scorer in Australia with Sydney United. What is your aim for this year? How many goals do you want to score ?

D.Z: I have not set myself a goal scoring target as I am still improving as a player and I do not want to play only for goals, but to be satisfied with playing consistently well every game and if I do this, goals will come.

A.K: What do you think about your chances to play in the First Division? Do you want to change clubs in the near future? Do you think you are strong enough to play in the 1. Bundesliga?

D.Z: I believe that I will eventually be playing in the 1. Bundesliga. I am young and ambitious and I would love to play First Division German Football. I still have work to do, however I am in the right place at the moment and I hope that we do well this year. Then I will see what options I have.

A.K: You had a very good start at Ulm. First game, first goal. What do you think about the German defenders? Is it more difficult to score in Deutschland, Switzerland or Australia?

D.Z: I found it difficult in Switzerland as the team I played for were very defensive. However I am confident that I can score goals in this League. In Australia I had a lot of success with scoring goals.

A.K: Many things have changed Down Under, Venables and Hill are gone. What do you think about the chance to play for Australia? Do you want to play for your country?

D.Z: Yes, I want to play for Australia again. This depends on my form in Europe and who is the coach, so I really don't think about it much at the moment.

(Continued Page 30)

An interview with Mark Burton

Another offering from ANDRE KRUGER

On Sunday, the 4th October, Mark Burton kicked (with his goal in Brisbane) Australia out of the race for the Confederation Cup, and put New Zealand back on the map of World Soccer. Overnight, the Kiwi player became the most important man for his "Land of the Long White Cloud".

Only six days later, Burton visited my home town, Hannover, with his German third division club Kickers Emden. So, I put my Aussie cap on and walked to the stadium to meet the man, who destroyed my dreams to see the Socceroos on TV in Mexico. I met a nice, friendly guy, who answered all my questions.

As I said, Emden is in the third Division, and Hannover has two Clubs in this League. Six weeks ago, they drew against Burton's team, Ricklingen 1-1, he scored the goal. This time they played against Arminia Hannover. Kickers Emden lost by two goals, there was not a lot to see from him.

After he had a long shower, Mark came out of the dressing room, that's my moment.

André Krüger: Hello Mark, congratulation on winning the Oceania Nation Cup.

Mark Burton: Oh, thank you, you are the first person in Germany who congratulated me.

AK: You made the winning goal in the final game against Australia.

MB: Yes, the greatest moment in my career.

AK: It's funny to see you in Hannover, just six days after that game.

MB: I arrived on Wednesday in Germany. From the nice weather in Brisbane to the cold in Europe. On Thursday I started training with my mates from Emden.

AK: And now you are happy to go with the New Zealanders to Mexico.

MB: I look forward to that tournament to play against teams like World champion France or Brazil. A highlight for a footballer.

AK: It's also an important win for the kiwis because of the money they can get.

MB: Very important, I think we get $750,000 for qualifying, or more. Maybe soccer in New Zealand is on the way up.

AK: Money, that Australia also needed so badly.....

MB: They only had to beat *us*.....

AK: I saw nothing of that game, do you know something about the reasons for your win or Australia's loss?

MB: In my view, we played better than the Socceroos, we had a Team. I am also sure, that the Australians underestimated us. They talked about the games in Mexico before they played against us.

AK: But they played without there European Players...

MB: (laughs) They thought they can beat us with the second or third team. But, I was also there and I came straight from Europe. I think for the overseas Aussies its not very interesting to play against New Zealand.

AK: Do you think that the All whites are as strong as the team from 1982, with players like Woodin, Turner or Sumner?

MB: I don't think so, but we have a young Team, and maybe in a few years we will be much stronger than today.

(Continued Page 30)

"News From The Capital"

From Nick Guoth.

Well, the season has started, but it appears that there is no change in the fortunes or for that matter the results of the Canberra Cosmos. After four rounds the Cosmos are 0-4 and have conceded a load of goals during this time.

Fortunately the matches haven't all been that bad. The last home game, that being against Marconi saw some of the best football in a long time. Then when a silly goal was given away, the heads went down and all was lost.

More unbelievable have been the problems off the field. From before match one and still now, the Cosmos have been beset by weird things happening one after another. Just to give you an idea... fire alarms going off just before kick-off at the first home game; the hired plane to go to Newcastle broke down before it arrived in Canberra, so two 6-seaters and an 8-seater were used instead with the players arriving a little more than 1 hour before kickoff.

Meanwhile problems also still exist with the International clearances of Amarildo Miglietti and Michael Hudek. The fight for Amarildo has been going on for more than a month now, with the Portugese FF using every delaying tactic they can, FIFA not intervening when it is part of the by-laws for them to do so and Soccer Australia saying their hands are tied. One wonders as to what problems are to occur with Michael and Slovakia.

Then of course, we have the standard injuries that beset every team. Lindsay Wilson took a solid blow to the collar bone area and is out til mid-November. Harry James fractured his ankle and is out until close to Christmas. To go with this you have the normal one-match injuries, and it all looks not so good. Yet, and this is a big plus, not one player has been suspended! At worst, after 4 rounds, Norman Kelly has 2 cautions.

The team has now played 4 matches. They have lost all four and along with the Melbourne Knights, are starting to fall behind the pack. If they lose to both Perth and Carlton in the next two weeks, the Cosmos will have broken their own record of 13 games without a win. Here's hoping they don't.

Speaking of Perth and Melbourne Knights, the so-called home matches against these two teams are both being played away. The reason for this is that the ground of Bruce Stadium needs to be re-surfaced owing to a bug which has damaged the grass. Unfortunately, the timing of this had not been organised between the Bruce Trust, Canberra Cosmos and Soccer Australia prior to the schedule coming out, and so the local team has to suffer playing extra away games.

With crowds already struggling, the loss of these matches in November can only harm the game here in Canberra. Oh sure, it will be to the club's advantage in monetary terms now, but what effect will it have in the future. For those who want to know why it's being done now and not at any other time, there are 3 teams that use the stadium - rugby league (Raiders) March to September - rugby union (Brumbies) February to April - soccer (Cosmos) October to April. Which is the least popular?

Is there anything good to say about the Cosmos? Well, the youngsters are doing good things on the park. Danny Burt and Anthony Magnacca have both been playing quite well. Leo Langone came on during the Olympic debacle and did a lot of good things.

Onto other things, and the local scene has finally gone quiet with the offseason. Player movements haven't started but some of the coaches have changed jobs. The big job for everyone is the challenge to beat Belconnen United who took out so many trophies this season.

For the women, it starts again in November. The Ansett Summer Series begins with the Canberra Eclipse playing the QAS Sting. With only 5 teams in the competition, each team will play 16 matches in home and away series. The Canberra team has a number of Australian representative players involved and should perform very well this season.

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Get the book out (extra!) ??

Some funny stories pass through the offices of SU, and some not-so-funny ones as well. Read the following and make your own mind up.

Soccer Canberra have decided that playing an ineligible player is okay if it's not found out until late in the season. Let me describe this a little better.

In the ACT we have two Premier League Divisions, 1st (PL1) and 2nd (PL2). The top team from PL2 is given the oppurtunity to move up to PL1 if they want to and if they take up this option, then the bottom team in PL1 is relegated. In PL2 there is a 1st Grade and a Reserve Grade that plays before.

In PL2 this season there was a tight race up until the last day between the Burns Club and the Australian National University (ANU). Eventually, Burns finished 1 point ahead of ANU after the 21 games. This meant that they had won the Championship.

Alike in other states, there is a Top 4 competition. Whilst this Top 4 competition was being held, those in Soccer Canberra did a random check of the team sheets of a number of clubs. They found a problem.

At some stage midway through the season a Burns player had been sent-off whilst playing in a Reserve Grade match. This player did not attend the judiciary and accepted the one match automatic suspension handed to him, as is his option according to the Soccer Canberra rules.

The following week, with no mid-week fixtures, the player accordingly sat out the Reserve Grade fixture. He then played in the 1st Grade fixture immediately following. When Soccer Canberra found this out, they automatically removed the 3 points thus promoting ANU to being Champion.

Burns appealed this decision and the appeal was upheld. Hence a player who was suspended for one game was able to play the following week. What a great precedent to set.

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Note: One other sour note coming up for soccer fans in the capital. The Cosmos are fast approaching the record for their worst winless run in their history. Hopefully that's one milestone they CAN avoid this season.

Introducing the first of a (hopefully) occasional series....

GREAT UPSETS IN OCEANIA FOOTBALL (# 1.)

World Cup Qualifier, November 26, 1988 (at Nadi, Fiji)

Fiji 1 Ravuama Madigi 66

Australia 0

Winning the World Cup can do extraordinary things to a nation. Witness the scenes in Buenos Aires in 1986 or Brazil in 1994 and one can appreciate what being the 'best in the world' can do for a nation's psyche.

Qualifying for the World Cup can do extraordinary things to a nation's psyche. Witness the scenes in Tehran on November 29 last year, or earlier this year when they defeated 'The Great Satan' on neutral soil.

But what of the minnows at the other end of the FIFA world rankings? Where is their glory?

If Australian fans consider the Iran game at the MCG as a black mark in the game's history books, then the match in Nadi must qualify as a charcoal smudge. It was the first leg of the 1990 World Cup Qualifying Preliminary Round (yep, it was *that* glamorous...) and Fiji did the unthinkable. They beat Australia 1-0.

To say that an upset of that magnitude in a World Cup match was unprecedented would be exaggerating a little (North Korea in '66 springs to mind, for example). But as far as Australia was concerned, a loss to Fiji in an official competition was simply unthinkable (although almost a decade later the Kiwis would suffer an equally similar scoreline against the novices of PNG).

1987 military coup led by Colonel Rabuka caused initial disruption to the Fijian Football Association 's World Cup qualifying plans, with the nation withdrawing from the 1988 Olympic qualifiers and a tournament in Tahiti. But 1988 proved to be a productive re-birth, with a win against a Queensland State XI, and upon the prompting of Oceania President Charlie Dempsey, Fiji decided to enter the 1990 World Cup Qualifying Competition. Guarantees regarding preparation were confirmed and Fiji prepared with the assistance of the military, to plot Australia's downfall.

Excuses? Yep, dozens. Just read Frank Arok's version of events in his authorised biography 'My Beloved Socceroos' (Robert Lusetich, ABC Books, 1992)

"Arok almost cried when he saw the match ball, not unlike the coloured ones found at service stations in hampers marked 'Beach Soccer Ball - $2.99'....

....It was proving near impossible to dodge the frogs and stop the ball from ballooning away at every sudden gust of wind."

None of this concerned the Fijian players or their coach Billy Singh who proceeded to further frustrate the visitors with a combination of stifling and rough-house tactics.

With the likes of Charlie Yankos, Graham Arnold and Garry McDowall wearing the green and gold, Australia weren't exactly short of physical presence either, but the tranquil atmosphere and the thought of 'It's only Fiji' combined to lull the Aussies into a comfort zone they couldn't escape. Chances came and went, but the home side converted one of their few opportunities and the rest, as they sometimes say, is hysterical.

But what of the man who thrust the dagger into the heart of Frank Arok? (Well, perhaps the liver and one kidney.) The man who became the most talked about man in Australian soccer for about, er, a week.

A couple of young SU readers on vacation in Fiji took off in a hire care in search of the man himself to ask the vital question. Do you remember THAT goal? After a lengthy hunt, they found their man.

To find Madigi in Fiji is not a difficult task. The man simply known as 'Madigi' to all in Fiji may have become a national hero suddenly but he'd already attained legend status in Ba, after converting a penalty (he had earned) to secure a 1-0 win for Ba over Nadroga to win the 1986 Inter-District title.

It would be understandable if a player, having been catapulted to national stardom at such a young age, collapsed under the enormous expectations created by scoring such an important goal, but rather than go the way of so many starlets, Madigi continued to compile a list of memorable moments.

Three years after scoring against Oz, Madigi lined up in the same stadium for Ba in the Inter-District Cup Final and scored the only goal against Nadroga to clinch Ba's 15th title.

I suppose you'd remember that one pretty clearly as well?

"Yeah, I hit the goalkeeper with my shot, it rebounded off him and I headed the ball into the back of the net".

The goal merely enhanced the already legendary status Madigi had carved out for himself, and the trophy cabinet simply had to be extended one more time.

Soccer hasn't always been kind however. Almost a decade after his 'goalden' moment, Madigi was still keen to extend his curriculum vitae, signing on with XXXX club Bundaberg Waves for the 1998 season. His thoughts on that experience remain mixed. Signing for a nine-month period, he returned home after just three, disillusioned with what could be described as a socially isolating experience.

Returning home meant practising on pitches which offered more brown surface than green, usually with one ball for squad as opposed to one for each player at Bundaberg, and keeping friendly with the neighbouring cows in case the ball gets hoofed out of play. Indeed, the local bovine herder is a regular at Ba training sessions and his involvement is often welcomed in training matches.

Nevertheless he slipped effortlessly into pre-Bundy scoring mode for the recent Inter-District competition, where he scored six times in two games, propelling Ba to the semi-finals.

In the immediate future his ambition is to keep playing for Ba "*because I started my soccer in Ba'*. And what of the future of Fijian soccer? *"At the moment it's going well. I've been playing thirteen years and there's been a big improvement in Fiji. Most of our players are going overseas at the moment and exposure is important, as is increased FIFA involvement.*

FIFA certainly has a crucial role to play in the further development of football in Fiji, and the million dollar windfall for all 2002 World Cup qualifying participants will ensure that Fijian teams can participate in all Oceania qualifying tournaments at all levels. Something that could not always be guaranteed in the past.

So, finally, we have to ask. Do you remember THAT goal against Australia.

"Of course! When the ball was passed to me I knew this was the only chance I'd get so I had to score. I was excited! It was the best goal of my career!"

And the most important! After the uncertainty following the previous year's coup, Fijian soccer was back, not only on the national scene, but the world stage as well. Probably nowhere more so than in New Zealand and Israel, where news of the Aussies' demise renewed optimism in both countries. Indeed, the Israelis were later to comment they knew they had nothing to fear from a side that had lost to Fiji. Maybe that's where this piece should end....

Studs Up would like to acknowledge the enormous sacrifices made by Sarah Cole and Michael Cronin during their recent trip to Fiji. Hope you enjoyed the excursion!

And Sarah and Michael would in turn like to thank the people of Ba and the Coral Coast for their help in organising this piece. Vinaka Vinaka! (Many thanks!)

And as for the Football....
...The 1998 WA Premier League Season

Searlais Mullin reports from the west

1998 heralded a more commercial local competition than WA has ever seen before. In an effort to fill the coffers, Soccer West Coast awarded every tournament, trophy and medal with a name-sponsor. Thus articles on the local game in the "West Australian" read more like the business pages. And to bolster public interest, a top five play-off was introduced. For the first time since 1991, and only the fourth time ever, the championship was decided by a Grand Final. On the three previous occasions, Floreat Athena won the minor premiership only for Perth Italia (now Perth SC) to win the play-off, so not surprisingly it was scrapped. Thankfully in 1998 the minor premiers went on with the job and won both trophies.

Western Knights were the dominant force on the field in 1998. Although they didn't match Athena's remarkable treble of 1997, they still bagged three major trophies. Incredibly those trophies are the first major honours ever won by the Knights.

Coached by Ronnie Campbell, the Knights were a well drilled, physical and gritty side that ground out victories week after week. The key players in the Knights' success were released Perth Glory midfielder Paul McVittie and the ever-prolific striker Trim Morgan. McVittie typified the solid grafting nature of the team in midfield, while Morgan added the class up front to convert the chances that came his way. Although dour and not pretty to watch, the Knights were simply too tough for the opposition to handle.

The first prize captured by the Knights was the minor premiership. The Knights shared the top three places with Sorrento and Fremantle City for most of the season, but towards the end continued to pick up points while their rivals stumbled. The Knights won the league with a round to spare, paradoxically losing at home to struggling Olympic Kingsway. However, Fremantle City failed to pick up the points they need to push first place honours down to the wire, somewhat typifying their season.

The Knights progressed to pick up the inaugural West Ham Cup, a secondary competition to the Boral Cup. In the final they only just managed to finish off a very plucky Division 1 outfit, Balcatta. In the top-five play-offs the Knights continued to win, booking their place in the Final with a fortunate 2-1 victory over Fremantle City. Ultimately their opposition in the Grand Final was Sorrento. The Gulls had got there the hard way, having seen off Floreat Athena, Joondalup City and Fremantle City. But without such important players as Jamie Harnwell (signed by Glory) and Tony Carbone (left for overseas trials) they never really stood a chance. The Knights were 3-0 up after half an hour through Eugene Singeorzan (2) and Ray Marinovic, and although Ross Greer pulled a goal back before half-time, the match was over. The Knights saw out the 3-1 victory in comfort to complete a remarkable season.

The other two clubs to win silverware were Perth SC and Joondalup City. Perth SC surprisingly won the pre-season Night Series, defeating Fremantle City in the final with a solitary goal, but under new player-coach Alan Pottier were unable to bring that form into the league. Joondalup City, five years ago an amateur club, confirmed their entry into the big time with their first major trophy, the Boral Cup. They easily defeated Olympic Kingsway in the final. Ultimately Joondalup, who finished third in the league after a slow start, were to embarrass themselves in the top-five play-offs, losing 6-2 to Sorrento.

Fremantle City, whose strong squad had most punters tipping them for the title, failed to win anything. Stuart Kamasz had Freo playing the finest football in the league, but their inability to convert superiority into victories when it mattered cost them dearly. Floreat Athena didn't even come close to their 1997 treble. A depleted squad was perhaps the greatest factor, but the fact that all their home games were played in the first half of the season to allow for the redevelopment of their ground (the Velodrome), had a severe impact on their form. To Athena's credit they did manage to slip into the top five on the last day of the season with a surprise win over Cockburn City, but they fell at the first hurdle in the play-offs.

Cockburn City, a merger of neighbours Cockburn United and Spearwood Dalmatinac, had a promising enough season, producing their best after the return from injury of Robert Zabica. Perth SC continued their indifferent form of recent years, as did Bayswater City Panthers. Inglewood Falcons, who started the season strongly, slumped to an unflattering position low on the table.

The relegation battle was a tight one, with three clubs fighting for survival. For much of the season it appeared as though the once mighty Stirling Macedonia would receive the wooden spoon, but the club averted disaster by hiring WA State coach Eric Williams and signing Socceroo Troy Halpin on loan from Perth Glory. A few crucial victories near season's end saw them scrape their way out of trouble. Olympic Kingsway's young squad performed better than their league position suggested, as evidenced by their excellent cup form, but came desperately close to going down. Instead it was Dianella White Eagles and player-coach Peter Vukmirovic who suffered relegation. Dianella had few to blame but themselves, totally outplaying Macedonia in the last game of the season but losing 2-1.

Dianella will be replaced by Division 1 champions Ashfield-Bunbury. A merger of Ashfield Dynamo and Bunbury United, the 1999 newcomers will bring Premier League football to the country for the first time in many a year. Swan IC, who attempted to take Soccer West Coast to court in protest at being relegated in 1997 (as if finishing last and playing in a swamp isn't a good reason), only managed to finish third.

Top scorer for the season was Trim Morgan, who bagged 18 goals. Macedonia's veteran defender Andy Wright carried off the fairest and best award for the second season running. He finished on 28 points, five ahead of both Morgan and McVittie, who were ineligible in any case thanks to red cards. Sorrento's Mike Harkness won the goalkeeper award, and Fremantle City's Gary Faria the "rookie" honour.

Perhaps the biggest success of the 1998 season was the arrival of WAIS on the local soccer scene. Coach Trev Morgan, former Exeter City striker and at 42 still playing for Sorrento in the league, put together a fine team of local youngsters. WAIS played midweek against every Premier League club and after a shaky start managed to win more than they lost. The success of the project was confirmed in October when they defeated Australia U-17 3-0 in Canberra.

Overall it wasn't the best local season WA has seen. Promising was the fact that the Knights and Joondalup City won their first major trophies, perhaps signalling a shift in the balance of power. However, the standard of football wasn't the highest - it was the dour economical sides who carried the day. Knights coach Campbell summed it all up when he criticised his team after a loss for "playing football". Hopefully next year we'll see more style and less graft.

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Searlais Mullin's WA Premier League Eleven:

Robert Zabica (Cockburn City), Craig Naven (Perth SC), Peter Vukmirovic (Dianella White Eagles),
Boza Erakovic (Floreat Athena), John Carbone (Floreat Athena), Ray Marinovic (Western Knights),
Paul McVittie (Western Knights), Tony Carbone (Sorrento), Michael Mirco (Fremantle City),
Trim Morgan (Western Knights), Carl McDarby (Joondalup City)

Subs:

Tom Tomic (Western Knights), Evan Wallace (Fremantle City), John Mirco (Inglewood Falcons),
Alan MacKenzie (Bayswater City Panthers), Sebastian Naglieri (Cockburn City)

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Fans of South Park take note:

It's not often SU chuckles audibly but a certain website containing animations of Glenn Hoddle and his team had us roaring the roof off. If you're a fan of Kyle, Kenny, Cartman and co or just love a laugh at the Poms expense, get yourself to a relative's place (or anyone who's online) and tell 'em to fire up the following:

http://www.hoddle.com/bulgaria.html

ALL-ROUND PERFORMANCE

from Bonnie Mersiades

A fully professional league is a critical measure of our progress, and success, as a footballing nation. We all applaud the initiatives of clubs such as Perth Glory, Carlton, Northern Spirit and Sydney Olympic who have moved to a 'professional' status for their players. While results on the field are the ultimate performance measure of any team, there are many off-field performance standards which a professional, contemporary sporting team should meet also. For example:

- Does your club answer letters and e-mail, and how promptly?
- Does your club respond to requests for player appearances? If so, does the player turn up on time, on the right day and wearing the right gear?
- How well does your club respond to simple telephone inquiries - such as the next game, the cost of entry and other match-day arrangements?
- Does your club produce a match-day program? Do they have a web site? Is there any other form of communication with supporters?
- How quickly do they respond to requests for information?

These are just a few of the more basic administrative functions which a club should be able to fulfil efficiently, without little impact on resources and budgets. In preparation for an article in ABSW, I recently sent a fax to all national league clubs asking for information on their relationship with juniors. The intention was to showcase what clubs offer in terms of both development and promotion, and to look at 'best practice' in this area. Only Newcastle, Marconi and Northern Spirit have responded to the request so far.

Unless one knew better, this lack of response could be interpreted to mean that the clubs are not doing anything at all for, or with, juniors - but this is not the case. Most clubs put considerable effort into promoting the game and their Club to junior players and young people, and some clubs have quite well-developed talent identification programs and feeder systems. But wouldn't it be nice for people to know about these?! (In fact, it may even be helpful for clubs to know about other clubs' activities.)

The level of unresponsiveness on this issue led me to assess how clubs answered five basic questions, viz:

- What date and time are their next home game?
- Who is it against?
- How much does it cost?
- What's the best way of getting public transport (including a taxi) to the ground?
- Can merchandise be purchased at the game?

The table below indicates the extent to which each club could answer the questions with a score given out of 5 on an 'efficiency factor'; and a score given on a 'friendliness factor' which is rated as follows:

- 🏆 How dare we ring and ask questions! (None in this category)
- 🏆🏆 Courteous but not inclined to anything more
- 🏆🏆🏆 Friendly
- 🏆🏆🏆🏆 Good ambassador for the Club and game - showed a willingness to help 'above and beyond' the basic questions, and were enthusiastic about the next home game!

Efficiency Factor	Friendliness Factor
• Adelaide City "couldn't be 100% sure" of prices and did not offer to look them up. Score: 3/5	🏆🏆
• Adelaide Sharks was able to answer every question. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆🏆
• Brisbane Strikers' telephone was answered as the "Queensland Soccer Federation" and, when put through to another person, they didn't know how to get to the ground. Score: 3/5	🏆🏆🏆
• Canberra Cosmos was able to answer every question. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆🏆
• Carlton had to look up the ticket prices but provided detailed public transport directions. Score: 4/5	🏆🏆🏆🏆
• Gippsland was able to answer every question. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆🏆
• At Marconi, the request was handled by the Club's switchboard and not their football office. They got the date wrong for their next home game and placed me 'on hold' for one minute while they checked the opposition and the prices, but apologised for not knowing. Score: 3/5	🏆🏆🏆
• Melbourne Knights were not able to provide a response to any question without placing me on hold and checking. This took approximately five minutes. Score: 2/5	🏆🏆
• Newcastle also had to check all facts and told me to ask the hotel how to get to the ground. Score: 2/5	🏆🏆🏆
• Northern Spirit was able to answer every question, and advised me to get there early if I purchased the cheaper tickets. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆🏆🏆
• Perth Glory was able to answer every question and told me to purchase the ticket beforehand. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆
• South Melbourne could not be sure about the prices, and described a pricing and seating structure which sounded very complicated, but were able to provide transport directions. Score: 3/5	🏆🏆
• Sydney Olympic was able to answer every question. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆🏆
• Sydney United had to check prices, were unsure of their opposition, and could not tell me how to get to Edensor Park. Score: 2/5	🏆🏆
• Wollongong Wolves could answer every question and had the friendliest person at the other end of the 'phone. Score: 5/5	🏆🏆🏆🏆

There were shortcomings in efficiency with some clubs, but the majority of 'front-line' representatives were happy to assist. While it is not the 'main game', the professionalism of those behind-the-scenes contributes to the image of the Club and also the image of the national league competition and the code - as do newspapers , the various football magazines and the television programs and commentators and others. From a corporate sponsor's point-of-view, these are some of the component parts of the footballing 'product'.

For the individual fan, a football club is a total product: performance on the park is a key measure, but loyalty is also developed through a range of other measures, including a friendly, approachable and well-informed front-line crew striving towards the highest levels of professionalism.

Interview with a Formeroo

This month Greg Stock speaks with Frank Parsons (Pt 1)

In Jack Pollard's Soccer Records, Sid Grant the legendary soccer statistician and historian describes Frank Parsons as "*One of the many Novocastrians who went to Sydney from northern NSW to win every honour the code could offer. Parsons was robust in his approach work in the tackle. In the air he was a real "killer". At times he showed that degree of impetuosity that one expects from an auburn-haired youth full of vigour*".

In an era of great forwards Frank was one of the best. Playing centre-forward for the Leichhardt-Annandale club alongside such greats as Joe Marston, George Russell and Harry Robertson, Frank became a standout player in a great side. He set new goalscoring records for his club (69 goals in the 1947 season) in a career that saw him as a regular in the NSW and Australian sides. He toured South Africa and New Zealand with the Socceroos scoring a whopping 16 goals in international football.

In the end it was the politics of soccer that saw his premature retirement as a player but Frank threw himself into the administration of the newly formed NSW soccer federation with the same vigour and commitment with which he had worn the green and gold. Over a cup of tea and his old scrapbooks Frank took me right back to the beginning to where his long and distinguised soccer career first started.

FP : "Adamstown Public School. I was seven not quite eight in third class I was a youngster. With 'Squida' Dunn and myself, we were picked in the under tens. From there I played with nobody but Adamstown right through to U-18 grade. In the last couple of years I had a few games with the senior team and when the war started I turned eighteen and went away in June '44 so I missed out the rest of that season and all of the following year. I was posted up to Williamtown so I could get back to Adamstown and I thought I could get a few games at the end of '45 but of course they had their team and they didn't want anybody else then. Coming back then they hadn't known me for a couple of years so I had a couple of games with Dudley.

They were playing against places like Lysaghts and those teams around Newcastle. I played three games with them and we won that competition (laughing). In the next year I thought I'd better go back to Adamstown and play and I travelled up and down from Sydney. Trained on Bondi beach which was hopeless trying to train on your own and then travelling up on Friday night and back on Sunday night. So I played with them for the whole of '46 and at the end of '46 I said "This is no good, can I have a transfer?".

You were signed for life back in those days and there was no such thing as a transfer. Anyhow I pestered them for a while and they understood that if I didn't get a transfer I wasn't going to keep travelling up and down because it was too much. I used to get the paper trains, which took six or seven hours just to get to Newcastle and that was a good fast trip.

So yes, I could have a transfer to Metters. So I had everything signed up. We were down in Sydney to play a team, and I wasn't a drinker in those days but all our mob were terrible and they'd go to the pub and have a few beers. I remember Ernie Screen and a few others were in Radistocks Hotel over at Leichhardt and somebody said something about football and what we were going to do this year and I said I won't be playing next year, I'll be in Sydney. I said I've got a transfer and I've got to present it today. We were playing Metters in a Everson Cup game at Arlington Oval and he said 'You've got your transfer, give us a look at it'. So I dug it out and gave him a look at it with my chest out (laughing) and he showed evrybody 'Look what Frank's got'. Then he tore it up and threw it on the floor. So that was the end of Metters.

But a fortnight later Bill Orr came to see me where I was living (in Leichhardt) and he offered me ten pounds to play with Leichhardt. That was the big deal and ten pounds in those days was more than a months board. So it was good money and I said thanks very much I'll play with Leichhardt under these conditions. If you agree with the conditions that I play as a midfielder. He stuck to his

conditions for ten minutes (laughing). Metters folded up many years later so I would have been with somebody else anyway.

GS : You enjoyed your time at Leichhardt-Annandale?
FP : "Leichhardt were a good mob. Old Jock Parkes you couldn't have had a better father figure in the team. He was a quiet man very good footballer, very solid, a gentleman and in his own quiet way made me feel at ease. If I was in strife you could always go and talk to him and he'd tell you how stupid you were (laughing). I played with them right through to the end of 1954."

GS : You made your Socceroo debut on the New Zealand tour of 1948
FP : "Yes thats right. We went to New Zealand by flying boat. We took off from Rose Bay and we headed out in the general direction of Auckland (laughing) and when we got pretty well established out over the waters and we were looking out over the port side and I said to Allan Johns who was sitting beside me. "Hey, that can't be right". I'd been in the air force and I'd seen planes crash and I said ' theres something wrong with that motor its leaking oil'. A little while later there were a few puffs of smoke, nothing bad and the hostess was coming through looking after us and I said 'come here and have a look at this that can't be right, theres oil coming out of that motor'. So she went up front and by that time it was flame as well as smoke and we were flying at about 10,000 feet. As soon as the pilot saw it he feathered that prop and came around as he was just beyond the point of no return, down to 1,000 feet and bought her down straight through the heads back to Rose Bay. So we thought that's a bit of luck what do we do now? So the old Association booked us into one of the hotels in town and took us out to the races at Rosehill and entertained us, took us back and gave us dinner and said your leaving at 11 o'clock. We left about midnight on the first of the Constellations that flew out from England to New Zealand and that was a luxury after the old flying boat, the Sunderland. So thats how we finally got to New Zealand. We left at midnight here and it was daylight when we finally got in so it was a five hour trip at least."

GS : On that tour you played about nine games and in one particular match you scored six goals. Do you remember much about that game?
FP : "That was in Wellington and I had an uncle who lived over there and I was most anxious to do something to please him (laughing). That was how I got some of the stuff thats in my scrapbook. Uncle Tom used to get the papers and send them home to mum and mum would cut out the bits and stick them up."

GS : You played for Australia against Hajduk Split from Croatia in 1949.
FP : "Yes I remember the first introduction I had to that team was at the (Sydney) Showground and they beat us 4-1. I came off the field with red and blue marks from the base of my neck to my tail. They were clever. The fellow who was their stopper, centre half, was named Katnik. I'd have been a good six inches taller than him but he was nuggety and he had all the skills of a ballet dancer. If we went up in the air for a ball and no matter where I went he'd go straight up over my back with knees and elbows. Quite legitimate because he didn't use his hands to pull me back but I could feel him all through that game and when I came home I was blue and red.

But we were outplayed by them. They were a much more professional side than we were. The best chance we had to beat them was when they beat us scoring 6 goals in Brisbane, but we had them over a barrel. We'd had a penalty and scored and we got another one and then we were leading 2-0 and we got another penalty and they all walked off the field - goalkeeper and everybody! By that time I had the ball on the spot and I said 'Don't worry about it, we'll score, its an extra goal for us'. Anyhow there was a kerfuffle and the referee was calling them back.

He came over and he was quite ready for us to score the goal even if they were off the field. It would mean the end of the game. Anyway Cec Drummond walked up to the ball and kicked it straight over the side for a throw-in where they were towards the stand. They immediately picked up the ball and threw it in to one of them. We were all standing up near the penalty area and they just went through and scored a goal. From then on they just went through us and scored five or six goals."

GS : So what was their objection to the game?
FP : "They weren't happy with the penalty. We'd already had two penalties and this was another one. They were all legitimate penalties but they were so much more professional than us, we wouldn't have tried to get away with the things that they tried to get away with. With our referees they were pulled up if they did any kicking from behind or subtle little trips but they were a very good team. I went back and renewed acquaintances with some of them thirty years later in 1979. I went back to Split with Nancy (my wife) and met them. They knew we were coming and took us up to their new ground and then they organised a trip for us around Yugoslavia.

We had a lovely time there. I spent some time with Red Star where Vladimir Beara who had been their goalkeeper in '49 was the goalkeeping coach. So I'd go down every morning about eleven o'clock and spend a few hours with a few of them. About two o'clock they'd all turn up because they all worked and they'd have the full afternoon being coached which was an eye opener. I would have liked to spend more time with them because they had methods of coaching which we hadn't even thought of. I had never been coached in my life except by an ex-player who said I am the manager of the team and I'll look after you and see that you get to the right place on the right day."

GS : Most of the Australian teams of the 40's and 50's didn't even have one training session before their matches!
FP : "Never. Well the team that went to New Zealand (1948) we had players from Queensland, South Australia, a goalkeeper and one other and I hadn't seen them before in my life. One was a little fella who could play on the wing and the goalkeeper who I guess were selected to introduce someone from that part of the world to an Australian side."

GS : On tour did you train together and develop a combination?
FP : "You did everything together alright but there was no method about it because we didn't have a coach who could present us with a method. It was in your own sight and if you saw somebody there who was capable of doing something you kind of fitted in. But there was no method in teamwork you just fitted in as well as you could. The only time we planned anything as players was on the South African tour, but in New Zealand there was absolutely nothing.

Cec Drummond was our captain and with all due respects to Cec he was not really able to sit and talk to anybody about football because he didn't have a great capacity for conversation. Our managers over there were unhelpful. Neither of them were soccer players and neither of them would have known anything more than the fundamentals they had picked up from being spectators."

GS : So there was not even a coach appointed?
FP : "When we were playing we didn't ever have a coach. We'd pick up a rubber somewhere. While we were in South Africa we picked up one of their rubbers. We had two managers who couldn't have said anything about how to pick a team or deciding on a playing method against a team over there they might have seen, nobody knew anything. It was pathetic. We had Bobby Lawrie who had played football in England and he was very able as a player and a method came into the team through him. Then we had Tom Jack who was the first stopper centre half we had. Now we had never played the stopper centre half system in defence until we went across there and didn't have any idea until we went across (to South Africa). We would feel our way and Tom would tell us what his role was and what he felt were the other roles around him and we did the best we could under those circumstances. So they were more skilled than us in those games because many of their players were playing in the U.K. and they'd come back to be in the national side. They were being coached professionally in England so that meant it wasn't strange to them at all."

GS : On the South African tour you scored a whopping 16 goals yet you were in and out of the Australian team. Was there a reason behind that?
FP : "The first test I played in was the third test. I spoke to management about one game I wasn't involved in but I was given a negative answer like 'your turn might come'. In that third test we won and I scored both the goals and when I came off the field at the end of that game the senior manager who was known very well to my family in Newcastle congratulated everybody as they came off the field except me (laughing). I was ignored, not that it worried me very much because I had a few words to say to him."

GS : So even at that stage of Socceroo history politics was creeping into the team management and selection of the team.
FP : "Oh yes. But you see the manager from NSW was antagonistic, he had been before I went away. The other one was from Queensland. 'Bunny' Nunn was from Queensland, and we were the pair of strikers, but really only one of us was supposed to be in the team at a time. Even though in the last test we both played thank goodness, because 'Bunny' scored the goal that allowed us to win that game.

I did go over (to South Africa) under a cloud. I got out of hospital after being sent off at Leichhardt after having a bit of trouble against Bankstown and I finished up being carted away to hospital and waking up three days later. Then a lot of people thought I shouldn't have gone but when I got over there I wasn't too bad but I wasn't as fit as what I should've been. I played in the first couple of games and scored a goal in each of them but I wasn't playing in top gear. So you can put the first time I got dropped down to the fact that I wasn't playing as well as I should have. Maybe the other players looked better on the field than I did."

GS : There was also some selection trouble before the team even went away, with Australia's greatest ever striker Reg Date being excluded from the squad.
FP : "Reg Date didn't make either of those tours to New Zealand or South Africa and he should have made both of them. Reg was about two and a half years older than me and he should have been the first picked to go to New Zealand. Yet he didn't even play in the interstate game we played. We had a game at the old Cricket Ground number two to finalise the team to go to New Zealand between New South Wales and Queensland. Now I wasn't picked in that team and I went away courting Nancy (his wife) where she was teaching up in Orange. Somehow they contacted me up there and said you've got to be back to play football tomorrow. So I got the night train back went out to my digs and had breakfast. I didn't get any sleep and went out and played and we beat Queensland about 6-0 and I don't know where Reg was. He should have been in but he wasn't. He was the outstanding player of those years, no doubt about that."

GS : That makes it even more hard to understand his omission.
FP : "Well I can't either. I don't know if there was any antagonism between him and any of the selection panel on the board. I was a very quiet and mild sort of fella while Reg was outspoken. But you wouldn't think anything would come up between a player and an adminstrator that would exclude selection from an Australian squad."

GS : I would liken that non selection to say the current Australian cricket team leaving out Steve Waugh, the best current Australian batsman.
FP : "It would be at least as serious as that - at least. I can still remember times playing against the pair of them with Artie Quill and Reg (Date) together with Artie laying balls off to Reg and belting them in the back of the net. He'd do them from ten metres or thirty metres it didn't make any difference. As a foil for a centre forward to be playing to him left or right he could do the job of any inside forward. I just don't know what could have gone wrong with him and he couldn't either. Until he died I was in pretty close contact with Reg. We had a few nights together in Newcastle and enjoyed each others company. He just loved to talk about soccer. Reg was a character and that pub of his....."

GS : I'm told Reg's pub was a haven for the soccer community of Newcastle.
FP : "And fighters. I think he fought most of the Sands brothers who'd come and try to knuckle on with him. He'd take them out the back and give them a belting and send them on their way (laughing). He was an athlete but the problem with him was he had some kind of problem that made him a little bit different in his movements but it didn't stop his agility with a soccer ball. He was a tough hombre Reg, the right man for a hotel."

.....With special thanks to John Punshon for his input and assistance!!!!!!!

Next month: The 17 goal hiding at the hands of England, the punch that ended Frank's career, and the reason why Frank may be the only NSW ex-president without life membership!

The eleven best soccer books

by Roy Hay

Every year someone picks the best soccer team of this or that era or competition, but I don't remember anyone being foolish enough to select the eleven best soccer books. Perhaps its because people still believe that soccer has no literature, unlike cricket, rugby union, baseball and horse-racing.

Instead it has an endless list of ghost-written pop biographies of players or boring statistical compilations of interest only to the fans of obscure clubs or fellow statisticians. Yet soccer has produced or inspired some memorable writing, much of it journalistic in the best sense, and some that speaks to the wider human condition, not just the obsessed supporter.

What follows is the usual personal selection which I will try to justify, but I suspect it may produce as much criticism and outrage as any team selection. My choice is limited to works in English.

Top of my list is Eamon Dunphy's *"Only a Game?"*, the shining exception to the generalisation about the pathetic quality of ghost-written football biographies. Dunphy's diary of season 1973-74 with Milwall, sympathetically edited by Peter Ball, tells about professional football in England from the inside, with all the pain and little of the glamour. Dunphy, who came to Manchester United around the same time as George Best, was a journeyman midfielder of vision, with 23 caps for the Republic of Ireland, while playing with clubs like York City and Milwall. He tells with feeling of the managers and coaches with whom he worked and of the fellow midfielder, whom he could not stand as a person, but with whom that strange chemistry worked when they were together in the cauldron of a match. A spiky and independent spirit, Dunphy was in the headlines at Italia 90 for crossing "Saint Jack" Charlton and he has caused more ructions with another book which nearly made my list, his highly uneven and very badly edited biography of Matt Busby, *"A Strange Kind of Glory "*.

Arthur Hopcraft's *"The Football Man: People and Passions in Soccer"* (1968) is still the best book to give to anyone who does not understand why people become obsessed with this game. *"The football fan is not just a watcher. His sweat and his nerves work on football, and his spirit can be made rich or destitute by it."* Alan Brown, who managed Burnley, Sheffield Wednesday and Sunderland among others, is quoted, *"Nothing is more calculated to make a man of you than to run the risk of professional football."* Hopcraft never comes across *as "a fan with a typewriter"* as a Scottish counterpart was once described, but he is fan at heart. What he had to say in 1968 is still fresh and immediate in 1998. One more quotation is particularly apposite when you witness the antics of some of the so-called superstars of the game, *'More damage to the game can be done by individual acts of vindictiveness than the guilty realise, or the game deserves'*. Are you listening Monsieur Cantona and Drunken Ferguson?

Most people still think of the late John Arlott as a cricket commentator only, but he was a perceptive and fluent writer on soccer as well. He had a policeman's eye for significant detail and a poet's ease of expression. When the English were still myopic about football on the other side of the Channel, Arlott wrote with insight on the game in France. His book *"Concerning Soccer"* (1952) sparkles with many gems. For those who know the Spurs inside-forward Eddie Bailey only through the caricature figure portrayed in Hunter Davies' *"The Glory Game"*, here is Arlott's succinct word picture of one of the stars of the push-and-run era. *"Neat as a trivet, busy as a one-man-band, alert as a boarding house cat, and as elusive as a dog in a fair, Bailey at the moment is not only on top form, but everything is coming off for him, so that no other inside forward in Britain can stand comparison with him."*

Bill Murray's *"The Old Firm: Sectarianism Sport and Society in Scotland"* (1984), the first scholarly investigation of the relationships between Glasgow Celtic and Glasgow Rangers, which have divided, uplifted and disfigured Scottish football since early this century, has caused a furore since its publication.

Much of this stems from the fact that it took an expatriate Scot and Greenock Morton fan to tackle the subject which generations of locals had talked about, but never committed to print or serious research. Most critics are jealous that Murray got in first. But as an introduction to a most complex subject this book is first class. Murray's more recent book, *"Football: A history of the World Game"*, will also have to get a place, though his publishers have priced this well out of the reach of inquiring fans, academics or journalists who would most benefit from its range and depth of knowledge.

Nick Hornby's *"Fever Pitch"* has become a classic. The story of an Arsenal supporter, not a football fan. There is an important distinction. True Arsenal supporters are interested only in their team winning, are interested only in 'their team', not in football as such. Hornby recounts his life from the days when he was taken to games as a child, through adolescence, awakening to the opposite sex, to marriage and beyond, with Arsenal in the foreground and life trailing along behind. When his girlfriend fainted at a match, he was most upset about the possibility of missing important parts of the game. Some people say this is obsessive behaviour, but when I gave a copy to Bill Murray, I wrote in the fly-leaf, 'Nick Hornby is a dilettante.'

Craig Johnston's *"Walk Alone"* stands out among the myriad of autobiographies in that it speaks directly to young Australians. I have no doubt that it has inspired a number of youngsters to make the same leap of faith that he did and if it helps to open their eyes a little before they commit themselves to seeking a professional career overseas, it will have contributed a greatly to their chances of success. Some senior players with extensive overseas experience have said that if the rewards of playing soccer in Australia had been just a little bit better then they would have stayed here. If you want to get an idea of what life as a professional player overseas for a young player can be, read Johnston, especially Chapter Three, "Chasing the Dream". Read it and think whether you could face these challenges.

"Action Replays" by the Scottish television commentator Archie MacPherson may raise a few eyebrows among those who have only heard his commentaries or his chairing of a sports panel programme. When I was in Scotland a couple of years ago I picked up this book and the autobiography of Bill McLaren, the rugby commentator, and found to my surprise that McLaren speaks much better than he writes, while MacPherson is the opposite. His writing is thoughtful and evocative and sane. He does not gloss over the battles he had with the major clubs in Scotland and the long struggle before he could establish any rapport with Celtic manager Jock Stein. He has a knuckle-whitening description of a light plane flight with the great man which nearly came to a disastrous end.

Tony Mason's *"Association Football and English Society 1863-1915"* is by far the best account of the formative period of the modern game, again written by a scholar who is also a deeply committed fan. He has other books of more general coverage on sport in Britain which draw on this and later research, but if you wish to understand how the game became what it is, this is the place to start. Afternoons spent in his company at games in the midlands of England involving West Bromwich, Aston Villa, Coventry City, Birmingham City or Wolverhampton Wanderers were a delight as he mixed humour and learning in a critical appreciation of the game as it has developed.

Pete Davies' *"Twenty-Two Foreigners in Funny Shorts"*, ostensibly and deliberately written to cash in on the World Cup in America (and to explain this foreign importation to people who were more interested in basketball, baseball, gridiron and hockey), is a brilliantly evocative account of the progress of Wrexham under Brian Flynn in the lower reaches of the English Leagues. It shows what the game means to the Europeans who grew up with it, and the pace is changed at

intervals to explain, patiently and sensibly, without jargon and without talking down, some of the more confusing aspects of the world game. Davies also has some sensible things to say about football hooliganism, drawing on his account of the previous *World Cup, Italia '90*, *"All Played Out"*.

How can you make a list with nothing by Brian Glanville, you may ask? I find it hard to separate the man and his works. I have enjoyed his splendid, hard-hitting journalism, particularly about the sleazy, corrupt and dangerous side of the game in Italy. Successive editions of his *"Story of the World Cup"* are packed with information and filled with shrewd appreciation. *"Goalkeepers are Different"* is a fine novel with insights into the world of the professional player. He has written other novels, had plays produced in the West End, speaks several languages and has a talent to which I would never even aspire. I had not met him until a brief encounter at Giants Stadium in New York during the World Cup in 1994. Something is not knowledge until he has pronounced upon it, often in an excessively, foul-mouthed and priggish manner. But he writes like a dream. Still I cannot find a place for him in my team.

There are very few football novels. *"The Arsenal Stadium Mystery"* is a moderate detective story. Bob Crampsey's *"The Manager"* is based on close reading and research by a good amateur player, radio and television journalist, novelist, playwright and Brain of Britain. David Martin's *"The Young Wife"* is a rarity, an Australian novel which has much of its action related to soccer. It tells a story of the post-war immigrant generation and the clashes of cultures involved.

"They Used to Play on Grass", by Gordon M Williams and Terry Venables is probably the best of the genre. Williams was the author of *"The Siege at Trenchers Farm"*, later made into a film and renamed after it as *"Straw Dogs"* and several other thrillers, but he was constrained to admit that many of the best bits of the joint exercise came from the pen of Venables. If the lawyers take the current England manager to the cleaners after Euro 96, maybe he will have to do a Sir Walter Scott, to pay the debts. He has the qualities to do so, judging by this first attempt.

James Walvin's *"The People's Game"*, written in the early 1970s has a claim to being the first social history of British football, when the academic study of sport was in its infancy. Rewritten and reissued in 1994 it still has a lot to offer, though there are numerous errors and it hardly comes to terms with the outpouring of research in recent years. He also had a go at *"Football and the Decline of Britain"*, a briefly fashionable contribution to the ongoing debate about the downhill slide of the country whose upper classes persist in the belief that they gave the game to the rest of the world.

Richard Kuper's *"Football Against the Enemy"* is a splendidly produced book, spiky and off-centre it is an account by an accomplished writer of the styles of football and the place of football in the cultures of a range of countries. Simon Inglis' two books on the football grounds of Britain and Europe are also classics, going beyond the narrow appeal of these working class cathedrals to capture the individual essence of some of the more and less famous stadia.

Hugh McIlvanney's *"McIlvanney on Football"* is not the multi-award winning journalist's best book on sport. He is much more incisive on boxing, which will not entirely surprise those who know his background. But two chapters in the football book stand out, the 'runner' on the 1960 European Cup Final which opens the collection and his sensitive and just appreciation of George Best. The report on the Real Madrid v Eintracht Frankfurt match would have been a magnificent assessment had it been written in tranquillity long after the game, but having been pounded out during and after the match to meet a tight deadline it is remarkable in its appreciation of the unique qualities of that particular game in the history of soccer. The few pages on George Best capture more of the man and the legend than anything else which has appeared in print. Joe Lovejoy's recent authorised biography has some memorable passages, but has rather too much on Best's alcoholism, and too little on his mesmeric soccer skilsl for my taste.

Geoffrey Green's, *"History of the F A"* is still a mine of information and an example of the old style of soccer writing at its best. It conveys masses of information lightly and with style as befits the long time soccer correspondent of *The Times*. Its measured pace and range make it a great antidote to the breathless rush of the modern.

My colleague Alan Scott at Deakin University, source of many fruitful notions, asked why I had not included a coaching manual, pointing out that Don Bradman's *"How to Play Cricket"*, probably had more influence in Australia than any of the great cricket literature cited by the scholars and historians of the game and writing about it. But no soccer coaching manual really stands out, nothing that really tells you how to go about becoming a professional soccer player. Much better to read Craig Johnston or Dunphy.

Paul Wade's *"Captain Socceroo"*, ghosted by Kyle Patterson, is a very informative and well produced account of a great ambassador for the game. My enduring image of Wade occurs more than an hour after the England game in 1991, when all his team-mates had showered and changed and were on the bus waiting to go out on the town. Wade was still in the press tent, in his soccer gear, his legs locked rigid with cramp, patiently answering questions from the media and a few fans who had crept in, knowing that this was one of the very rare opportunities to project the game in Australia to the mainstream, not just the besotted fanatics. The book reveals a great deal about Wade's strengths and weaknesses. Only someone as transparently honest, and perhaps as naive, could have allowed the stories of his early life and courtship to appear as they do. By contrast Frank Arok's *"My Beloved Socceroos"* tells us very little that was not on the public record and nothing about his other soccer activities in a controversial career. I haven't got a hold of Frank Farina's autobiography yet.

Tom Watt, *"The End"*, was the first and in many ways the best of a number of books which have tried to record what the fans thought about their team, the game, the club over a period of years. Concerning Arsenal's North Bank, this oral history captured a finite era as the terraces gave way to the all-seater post-Taylor Highbury the library. Rogan Taylor was another who tried to capture the voice of the fans and roll back the hooligan onslaught on the game. Two Arsenal books in my first eleven, I must be losing my marbles!!

Until recently Bill Murray always said I must include John Fairgrieve's *"Away Wi the Goalie"* but if I did I would then have to consider a number of other works of humour and good cheer which might not be appreciated 'furth of Scotland' as they say. Then of course if one could include annuals, *"Rothmans"* would reign supreme, while *"World Soccer"* remains the peerless monthly, but it is enough to deal with books. When I count up the books mentioned here it comes to over 30 which is a bit more than one is allowed to field, so let me put the team out as I would play it.

1	Eamon Dunphy,	*"Only a Game"*
2	Arthur Hopcraft,	*"The Football Man"*
3	Nick Hornby,	*"Fever Pitch"*
4	John Arlott,	*"Conceming Soccer"*
5	Bill Murray,	*"The Old Firm"*
6	Tony Mason,	*"Association Football and English Society"*
7	Pete Davies,	*"Twenty-two foreigners in funny shorts"*
8	Richard Kuper,	*"Football against the enemy"*
9	Craig Johnston,	*"Walk Alone"*
10	Archie MacPherson,	*"Action Replays"*
11	Geoffrey Green,	*"History of the Football Association"*

I'd have McIlvanney and Wade on the bench.

Note: Due to space restrictions, any requests for references should be directed to Roy Hay c/o any of the addresses on Page 2.

An Interview with David Zdrilic

(Continued from page 12)

A.K: ***Do you have contact with other Aussies in the second League, like Juric (Düsseldorf), Middleby (Uerdingen), Sekulic (Mainz)?***

D.Z: No, I have not had a chance. However I will play against Sekulic and Juric in the coming weeks.

A.K: Do you like to play in Germany? Is it hard for you, (away from your family and the good weather), to stay here?

D.Z: I had a very bad time in Switzerland and I was very homesick there. However in Germany it is much better for me, I have many good friends already and the important thing is that the football suits my style.

A.K: Let me know something about your plans in the future. The Socceroos, the Olympic Games, you're very young and you were one of the best forwards in Australia.

D.Z: I plan to establish myself in Germany and try to keep improving my game which I hope will lead to International appearances and hopefully First Bundesliga.

A.K: David, good luck for the future. Do you want to say something to your fans in Australia. Is there a chance to see you once again in the A-League?

D.Z: I would like to say Hi and thanks to all my fans in Australia. I hope to play again in Australia after I finish my career in Europe.

A.K: Thank you for the interview.

D.Z: I have to say thanks

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An Interview with Mark Burton

(Continued from page 13)

AK: Was Australia as strong as you thought before that final game?

MB: No! Maybe another reason for their bad game is, if they qualified, which of these players will go to Mexico? Most of the Aussie eleven on the field had no chance to go when the players from Europe are back. Maybe that's why they have no fun. I am so happy to go to Mexico.

AK:....If Kickers Emden let you go.

MB: Oh, that's no problem. I can go to every International if I want. I want to play for New Zealand, because I am a New Zealander with my heart.

AK: Your next aim? 2000?

MB: Sure, the next step are the Olympic Games. Australia as host has qualified, so maybe the chance is easier for us, if we have not to go over Asia.

AK: At the last Olympic Qualifier, the Kiwis beat the Socceroos in one game too!

MB: I think we're getting stronger at all levels. The next years will be hard for your Socceroos.

AK: Thank you very much Mark and good luck for the future. Maybe I will come sometimes to Emden to talk to you again, a bit longer.

MB: Your welcome. It's great to talk with someone who knows so much about the Football in Oceania. See ya'

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Congratulations are definitely in order for Bruce Holloway, editor of the excellent Kiwi fanzine Sitter!. Bruce has picked up the award for Soccer Writer of the Year, as voted by the NZ Soccer Media Association. Sadly for Bruce, the $600 prizemoney from Smokefree which has accompanied the award in past years failed to materialise this year. The sponsorship had expired. Ah well, we're sure he got plenty of free drinks on the night...

It's baaa-aaack.....

Those of you with reasonable memory banks will recall a tabloid soccer publication titled INSIDE SOCCER which was getting around a few years ago. Well, it's back. Bruce Campbell is still running the show and like all new Aussie publications we like to give 'em a fair go, and we really can't be fairer than to reprint the editorial from the first issue. Er, take it away Bruce....

EDITORIAL: Soccer Has Come Home

Four years ago Australian soccer was promised a brand new direction, a 'Sea Change' as it was called by the-then new Soccer Australia boss, David Hill. We all expectantly waited for the dawn of a new era when the round ball game was to finally awaken from the sleeping giant tag which had dogged it in Australia for the last four decades. In its place was to come a vibrant new national league, an exciting programme for the Socceroos and more-or-less guaranteed qualification for the World Cup.

But in an October night of depression at the Melbourne Cricket Ground we saw the last vestiges of that so-called Sea Change in tatters, a tearful Socceroos squandering a 2-0 lead in front of a record and emotion-charged crowd. The drop in attendances at NSL games was almost inevitable with the game hovering, once again, close to bankruptcy. Stories of debtors banging at Soccer Australia's doors were commonplace on the rumour mill and with the departure of yet another financial controller from Paddington the signs were ominous.

Estimates of the bills incurred along our route of World Cup failure reached as high as $6 million, stories of extravagant expense accounts and gold credit cards shocked the average Australian soccer fan. And tales of open hostility between David Hill and top journalists also started to grow. And the Sea Change? - well that plainly never happened. Instead, over that four year period the soccer punter has had to endure the attempts to decimate Eddie Thomson's career, attempts which eventually drove him to Japan.

We saw first Parramatta Eagles and then Heidelberg United kicked out of the league, then the collapse of Melbourne Pumas, Collingwood - the so-called new face of Australian soccer - and the near destruction of Marconi's close neighbours and rivals, Sydney United.

Then came the costly debacle over club logos and merchandising, none of it suggestive of a departure from the internecine squabbling which has made our game a laughing stock in media circles since the early 1950s.

And what of the much trumpeted Soccer Summit?
Despite numerous promises to print a public document so far nothing has happened and now it is such a sad joke that it doesn't even rate a mention.Soccer does need a new image, it does need a new direction - of that there can be no doubt. But it needs committed and knowledgeable leadership based on history and tradition.

The Socceroos face a mountain to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals. Gone will be Slater and Vidmar, possibly even Zelic and the injury-ravaged Okon. Gone also will be the millions of dollars squandered already on the yellow brick road. Should the Socceroos qualify for Japan and South Korea then it will only be done on the back of a stronger National League.

Already the signs are hopeful; the leadership changes promise much. Soccer has come home – and once more the leadership of our game is vested with those who have a passion, and a history, for the sport.
Bruce Campbell

So, there you have it. Sound like your cup of cha? Check your local newsagent, or ask around at at least one Sydney-based NSL club and they'll be sure to point you in the right direction.

NSL PLAYERS - THE SUCCESSES, FAILURES AND... MOST MEDIOCRE

More stats Galore from Andrew Howe

Ever wondered who the most 'successful' NSL ever was? Or the least successful?

Here, we define 'success' as the most competition points won as a percentage of the maximum possible competition points, based on 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw. For example, a player who played 3 games, winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 1 has a 50% success rate. Figures below are up until the end of the 1997/98 season.

MOST SUCCESSFUL:

69 players have won every game they appeared in (100% success rate). However it must be noted that most of these players played just the one game. Out of these 69 'perfect' players, the player who played the most games was Dave Provan (Sydney Olympic 19).

Of the players who played more than 10 NSL games, the most successful are:

Player	P	W- D- L	Success rate (%)
1 Alan Brazil (Wollongong 1988)	12	8- 3- 1	79.2
2 Damir Cvetko (Sydney United 1996-97)	22	15- 4- 3	77.3
3 Alex Kovacic (Sydney United 1985-86)	18	13 - 1- 4	75.0
4 Stuart Robertson (Marconi, Newc. 1977-81)	28	18- 6- 4	75.0
5 Eddie Thomson (Sydney City 1977-80)	66	41-16- 9	74.2
6 Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights 1993-95)	48	31- 8- 9	72.9
7 Ermanno Pelluchi (Marconi 1992-93)	22	15- 2- 5	72.7
8 Ralph Coates (St George 1978)	11	7- 2- 2	72.7
9 Pan-Keun Kim (Marconi 1997-98)	20	12- 5- 3	72.5
10 Ray Richards (Marconi, APIA 1977-79)	39	23-10- 6	71.8

LEAST SUCCESSFUL:

181 players have lost in all NSL games they played in. Again however, most of these 'ultimate losers' played just the one NSL game. 1995/96 Breakers goalkeeper Adam Fittock is the ultimate loser to have played the most games, playing and losing 11 NSL games. Under the criterion of playing more than 10 games, here's the least successful NSL players:

Player	P	W- D- L	Success rate (%)
1 Adam Fittock (Newcastle 1995-96)	11	0- 0-11	0.0
2 Joe Stipancic (Brisbane 1992-93)	11	1- 0-10	9.1
3 Athan Zacharias (Sunshine 1989-90)	11	0- 2- 9	9.1
4 David Milin (Canberra 1995-96)	15	0- 3-12	10.0
5 Martin Doak (Adelaide Sharks 1989-90)	12	0- 3- 9	12.5
6 Tony Turner* (South Melbourne 1979)	12	1- 1-10	12.5
7 Trevor Smythe (Newcastle 1982)	11	0- 3- 8	13.6
8 Ben Lane (Newcastel 1997-98)	12	1- 2- 9	16.7
9 Mike Clarey (Mooroolbark 1977)	12	0- 4- 8	16.7
=10 Chris Iliopoulos (Heidelberg 1989-91)	14	1- 3-10	17.9
=10 Costa Theodosopoulos (Green Gully 1986)	14	1- 3-10	17.9

* note that Tony Turner's record was originally 2-2-8, but, because he was unregistered at the time, South Melbourne later had the results of 3 games overturned (to 3-0 losses).

Defining a 'long-term' NSL player as one who has played more than 50 games, the least successful long-term NSL player is Richard Watson (Heidelberg 1993-95, Canberra 1995-96) who played 69 games with a W-D-L record of 10-16-43 (success rate 26.1%).

MR AVERAGE:

189 players have a success rate of exactly 50 per cent. Again, lots of these have played just 1 (drawn) game. However, a significant number of these players have played lots of games. Of these players with a 50 per cent success rate, here are the most

Player	P	W- D- L	Success rate (%)
1 Tony Franken (lots of clubs, 1984-)	255	93-69-93	50.0
2 Tony Krslovic (Syd.Utd, St George 1987-97)	172	64-44-64	50.0
3 Adam Ciantar (St G, Parra, Olympic 1990-)	161	59-43-59	50.0
4 Sean Cranney (Brisbane 1992-)	119	47-25-47	50.0
5 Markus Stergiopoulos (Gipps., Carlton 1993-)	103	36-31-36	50.0
6 Scott O"Donnell (Parramatta 1989-94)	90	32-26-32	50.0
7 Stan Lazaridis (Adelaide Sharks 1992-95)	73	29-15-29	50.0
8 Tyrone James (Sunshine, Footscray, 1985-88)	68	22-24-22	50.0
9 Noel Mitten (Sth Melb., Sunshine 1977-87)	67	21-25-21	50.0
10 Con Anthopoulos (Sth Melbourne 1994-)	58	22-14-22	50.0

MOST WINS/DRAWS/LOSSES:

Players with most wins/draws/losses is biased towards those who have played in the most NSL games. Note that Sergio Melta (Adelaide City 1977-95) is the record appearance maker in the NSL, with 445 appearances.

WINS-

Melta has won the most NSL games, with 184 wins. Alex Tobin (Adelaide City 1984-current) is next, with 172 wins, followed by Steve Blair (South Melbourne (1980-93) with 167 wins.

LOSSES-

Again Melta, with 146 losses. Next comes Mike O'Shea (St George, Canberra and Wollongong 1977-96) with 142 losses, then Theo Selemidis (Heidelberg and Melbourne Knights, 1977-94) with 132 losses.

DRAWS-

Melta with 115, then O'Shea with 113, then Gary Phillips (Sydney Olympic and Brisbane 1982-97) with 97.

In response to our 'Worst Ever' article last ish, one SU reader suggested we plot the demise of **Doveton** in the Victorian leagues. Hmm, okay, it ain't pretty, but it's worth printing...

Year	Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
1992	Vic State League 1	26	2	3	21	12	75	7	14th (relgtd)
1993	Vic State League 2	26	1	4	21	13	63	6	14th (relgtd)
1994	Vic State League 3	26	5	5	16	27	67	15	14th (relgtd)
1995	Vic League Div 4	26	3	9	14	29	58	18	13th (relgtd)
1996	Provisional Div 1	24	7	7	10	26	33	28	
		AVOIDED RELEGATION!!!!							
1997	Provisional Div 1	26	2	1	23	19	107	4	14th (relgtd)
1998	Provisional Div 2 Sth East	22	14	3	5	53	36	45	3rd

Dear Studs Up P O Box 53, Oakleigh South, 3167
studsup@ozemail.com.au

Short and sharp this month, as Craig Wilson writes what a couple of others have been thinking..

Once and for all, let's bury the myth that the Northern Spirit are a 'non-ethnic' team. The Spirit have been founded on a very obvious 'Anglo-Irish' ethnic blueprint, as the Perth Glory were before them. They are being marketed as a non-ethnic team in reponse to the other, non-Anglo teams in Sydney.

The playing list is one of very Anglo surnames, there is an Anglo coach, there is an ex-England international (of sorts) in Ian Crook, and even the name 'Northern Spirit' sounds Wagnerian.

There is a curious kind of racism abroad in attitudes to the traditional 'ethnically based' soccer clubs - you have often touched on this yourself. The Northern Spirit blueprint reflects just these kinds of xenophobic attitudes. The North Shore is a predominently Anglo part of Sydney, with a high percentage of the population coming from an English speaking background. Isn't obvious that to attract support from this part of the community of Sydney a football club will utilise that fact.

While I do not for one moment think that the Spirit, or anyone at the club, is racist, I think it is important to accept that it in its way, the Northern Spirit is as ethnically based as Marconi or United. As always in Australia, it is far easier for the Anglo to blend with the scenery, while attitudes to 'wog' clubs are continually brought into sharp focus.

Look at the player lists at Marconi or United now and ask yourselves whether these are not as truly multi-cultural as Spirit.

Dear Studs Up (sort of) - **Andre Kruger reports from Hamburg**

After the first ten playing days in Germany, there is not a lot to tell about the Australians here.

Since Klaus Allofs, Ex German International, took over as coach in Düsseldorf, Frank Juric is the first choice Goalkeeper.

Robert Middleby is only on the bench, after a few games at the beginning. KFC Uerdingen is only on the last place in the Second League, and Sekulic is still waiting to play for Mainz. Only Zrilic made his way, he scored again last weekend.

In the first Bundesliga, only Zelic is on the Top. Agostino is back from his injury, but Simunic has to wait a few days more, he had a broken Middle foot (?).

Ned Zelic is at the moment on an unbelievable peak with 1860 Munich. Last year they were close to go straight to the second Division, today they are second, but behind Bayern, in the First Division. A part of this success is Zelic. He played sometimes like in his Dortmund days. "One of the reasons for my good from, said Zelic, is coach Lorant".

Also Werner Lorant is full of big words for his Australian. *" Ned can play on every position, left or right midfield or as Libero. He made a fantastic development here in Munich. The best thing for the club is, that he will not go away to Internationals,"* said the Coach. That was a decision, who shocked Australia. A few weeks ago Zelic said, that he did not want to play for his country until 2000.

"But after I told that, I got a call from National Coach Raul Blanco, who asked me to play the Qualification games for the Confederation Cup, but I told him that Australia did not need me to win the Oceania Nation Cup". "If I had to go to that Tournament, I had missed the games against Berlin (3:1) and Nürnberg (5:1). But, as everyone knows the brave Kiwis kicked the Socceroos out of the Race. "I was a bit shocked, said Ned, we had to beat them. A big disaster for the Football in Australia. Now I have enough time to think about to play again for the Gold and Green in 2000."

The all-rounder Zelic is also in the mouth of Franz Beckenbauer, who said, that 1860 had the luck to have a player like him. Bayern was not fast enough to buy him from France. Beckenbauer means, " *a player like Ned can play in every great Team*".

Never let it be said we don't finish a job. Just enough space to include those WYCq line-ups we promised you. Here we go then…

World Youth Cup qualifiers, Apia, W. Samoa

Aug 15	Grp B	Fiji	2-0	Rizzo 14, Colosimo 71
Aug 18	Grp B	Tonga	8-0	**Maisano 13, 44, 66**, Carle 79, 88, Sterjovski 34, Wearne 60, Terminello 89
Aug 21	Grp B	W. Samoa	8-0	Terminello 4, Carle 16, Cuzzupe 28, **Cunico 41,46,55,59**, og 76
Aug 23	Semi	New Zealand	3-2	Carle 36, Colosimo 52, Cuzzupe 110 (g.g)
Aug 25	Final	Fiji	2-0	Colosimo 39, 78

	Fiji	Ton	WS	NZ	Fiji
Anthony Breaden	X		X		
Brad Swancott		X		X	X
Eddy Bosnar	X	X	so46	X	X
Danny Invincible	Xo74	Xo80	X	Xo77	X
Michael Ferrante	so74		X	Xy	so60
Lndsay Wilson	X	X	X	Xy	X
Simon Colosimo	X	X	X	X	X
Paul Weame	X	X	X	X	X
Nick Rizzo	X	X		Xo46	X
Vince Grella	X	Xo30			
Marco Bresciano	Xo74	X		Xy	X
David Terminello	so74	so30	X		Xo60
Christian Care			Xo46		
John Maisano	X	X		X	Xo49
Mile Sterjovski	Xo18	Xo65			so49
Nick Carle	so18	so65	X	X	Xo60
Michael Cunico		so80	X	so46y	so60
Adrian Cuzzupe			X	so77	

Coach: **Les Scheinflug**

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The Farr Post - Issue 25, November 1998 Out Now!!

Ah, Queensland.

If you need to know the state of play up there, there's no going past the informative ravings of **Tony Moran and co** in the latest Farr Out edition.

You may learn more about Farr north politics than you'll ever need to know!!!!!!!!

Just send $2:00 to Tony at:

Sportsprint, P O Box 478, Bulimba, Qld 4171

Did that Really happen?

OCTOBER

3 - Hayden Foxe is the hero for Sanfrecce Hiroshima with a scorching drive in the 119th minute which secures a 2-1 win over Nagoya Grampus Eight. Further south, Brian Bothwell notches a hat-trick for Brunei in their 4-4 draw with Pahang in the Malaysia Cup.

4 - In Holland, Ante Milicic scores for NAC Breda in their 1-2 loss at Heerenveen while Zeljko Kalac helps Roda JC to a 2-1 win at Willem II.

5 - The scouts continue to sniff around John Aloisi, with Coventry City, Nottm Forest and (surprise, surprise) Crystal Palce all keen to gain pole position for his signature. Portsmouth are reputedly asking around the 3 million pound mark.

11 - Newcastle's joy at securing a 1-1 draw at Sydney United is curtailed with the realisation that gun recruit Andrew Borghetto will be out for at least three months with a broken leg, and will return to Adelaide for the rehabilitation process.

15 - La Presse (Ottawa newspaper) reports that Canada are preparing a bid to host the 2010 World Cup Finals.

16 - Carlton announce that midfielder Vince Grella left the previous night for trials with Empoli.

17 - Liverpool are rumoured to have made a 5 million pound bid for Mark Schwarzer. Oldham Athletic defender Doug Hodgson is placed on the official FA transfer list. He has yet to make a first team appearance this season following pre-season rumours linking him with a move to Carlisle United.

18 - The English leagues are back in full swing after international interruptions and Paul Gellard has a fair bit to report...

Andy Petterson finally got a first team game with Charlton this week. He came on on 44mins for injured Sasa Ilic. Charlton ended up losing 2-1 to Chelsea (super blues!).

Jason Kearton played for Crewe as they lost 3-1 at Birmingham City, whilst Crystal Palace had the whole of Australia playing in their 5-1 win over Norwich. Moore, Rizzo and Foster played - Foster being subbed after 50mins, and Rizzo scoring a great thirty yarder.

Frank Talia performed exceptionally for Swindon as they lost 1-0 at Ipswich. He seems to have re-captured the form that lead Barcelona to scout him a couple of seasons back.

John Aloisi played for Portsmouth as they beat Wolves 1-0. Muscat did not play, although Corica made a rare start in the number 7 shirt.

Richard Johnson continues to start for Watford, although they lost 3-2 at Tranmere.

Mark Robertson played a whole game for Burnley in their 1-1 draw with Notts County.

Cahill was substituted in the 90th min, and Neill played a whole game in Millwall's 1-0 loss at home to Fulham. Manchester City won 1-0 at Wigan, the team containing Danny Tiatto. Danny Allsop was an unused sub.

In Scotland, Tony Vidmar played a full game for Rangers as they won 3-0 at home to Hearts. Also, Stuart Lovell played a full game in Hibernian's 2-1 win over Greenock Morton. He seems to be enjoying his football up in Scotland, although it is an easier level to play at.

20 - Various international news agencies report that Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic is interested in signing ex-England star Chris Waddle, who is currently earning a wage with Torquay in the English Third Division. And speaking of England, here's Paul Gellard again....

Craig Moore scored his first Crystal Palace goal in their 3-2 win at home to Wolves. Craig Foster and Nicky Rizzo also played although the latter was subbed after 71mins. Both Muscat and Corica played full games for Wolves. John Aloisi scored both of Portsmouth's goals in their 4-2 home loss to Bradford City. Also, Harry Kewell started for Leeds in Rome but was subbed after 70mins. Mark Bosnich is still injured and so did not play for Villa at Celta Vigo.

22 - Vince 'The Prince' Grella is on his way from Carlton to Empoli (Serie A) for an eight week trial period. Eddie Krncevic says "This is a terrific opportunity for Vince. He will be missed for the next eight weeks, however his departure gives an opportunity for another player to come into the squad.

25 - Zlatko Arambasic scores twice as Mechelen win 5-1 at Cercle Brugge to move to second place in the Belgian 2nd division.

26 - Paul Gellard is back with another round-up of the English week-end action:

Andy Petterson made his first start of the season as Charlton played West Ham in the East London derby. Petterson pulled of some great saves and looks set to give Sasa Ilic a run for his money once more.

Harry Kewell played for Leeds against Chelsea on Sunday. It was he that Franck Leboeuf fouled in order to be sent off.

Moore, Foster and Rizzo all played in Crystal Palace's game at Bradford. The scores were 1-1 at half time and the match was abandoned at half-time due to deteriorating weather conditions.

Talia played for Swindon in their 2-2 draw with WBA. Once again, WBA had a predominantly Australian back four with McDermott, Murphy and Van Blerk all playing.

Corica and Muscat both played for Wolves in their 2-0 home win over Grimsby Town. Corica seems to have his place in the starting line-up back, having struggled to make the team at the start of the season.

Danny Tiatto was sent off after 23mins for Man City. Daniel Allsop made a sub appearance on 61mins but couldn't prevent a Reading side, including Andy Bernal, from winning 1-0. Jon Brady returned to the starting line up as Rushden & Diamonds continued their quest for promotion to the football league by beating Morecambe 3-1.

In Scotland, Tony Vidmar played on Sunday for Rangers as they beat Airdrie 5-0 in the Scottish Cup Semi-Final.

28 - Carlton announce the signing of of former Melbourne Knights/Sydney Utd midfielder Robert Markovac. In England, Harry Kewell gets the only goal as Leeds beat Bradford 1-0 in the Worthington Cup.

Note: Simon Colosimo's opening round hat-trick got us wondering how long it had been since a sweeper nabbed one in the NSL. Er, it appears our memories are getting dodgier by the year. Remember Tony Sekulic's effort against Newcastle in March last year?

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Programme watch

The Good - Well, the VERY good in fact. A generous SU reader was kind enough to mail on a copy of the Glory's match programme for the game against Northern Spirit and at $2 it represents the best value yet seen in this country. We actually defy anyone to produce something better than this. Can every other club in the competition at least have a look at it? Even if you can't match it, at least you'll know what you're aiming at.

The Bad - Difficult to go past the Hellas programme, which seems to have slipped back to the bad old days. $2, A4 size, 20 pages (including cover), 12/13 pages of ads, leaving just enough space for stuff like fixtures, squad lists and so on. Although to be fair there is at least one decent player profile per issue as well as the obligatory messages from the president and the coach. But where is the news on the LEAGUE. Why have South Melbourne fallen behind in the crowd stakes?

The call from president Vasilopoulos in the Rd 3 programme was almost symbolic of the problem.

"I encourage you all to play your role by bringing new people to the BJS. We all have friends and relatives that do not come to the games. We must bring them from now on."

Er, *must* bring them? While Hellas try to invite more relatives over each fortnight it might be an idea for them to check out what's happening in the rest of the neighbourhood.

The Bloody Ugly - Can't help but point to the Carlton Team Picture Profiles in their first programme of the season, and in particular Joe Tricarico. Now we realise that Joe was a late signing but there was no excuse for the 'Kick Off' production team to cut out Joe's head from some other photograph and paste it on to somebody else's neck! Fair dinkum, it ain't the most flattering piece of artwork we've seen, and on closer inspection it looks like they've used the neck and shoulders from the adjacent photograph, which may not have pleased Andy Vlahos either...

MORE FERAL FEEDBACK.

Every now and again you're just about to go to print and an article so important arrives that you just have to squeeze it in somewhere, even if it means dumping it just inside the back cover.

So, as an extra bonus in the back of SU34 we can give you one final turmoil to chew over before you can straighten your body and get to the fridge.

Thank you very much Green Rover for the following piece which is sure to enlighten us all....

The NSW Soccer Federation has issued the draw for its 1999 Super League season which kicks off on 6th February. The early start could be the thin end of the wedge as the NSW body is keen to cash in on the success(?) of summer soccer at the national level. They have no real plans to play in the warmer weather outside the top division at this stage, but when and if 1st Division gets to the stage where all of the clubs have their own grounds for use in summer you can be sure they will be next.

The fixtures make special mention of when the three main Sydney Ericsson Cup clubs are due to play, as clashes are to be avoided where possible. For instance Canterbury-Marrickville are not scheduled to play at home the same weekend as Sydney Olympic, though some of their away games clearly clash. With Olympic opting for Sundays like Sydney United, there is no question of games being held on Saturdays to cater for that arrangement as host clubs would scream. As Northern Spirit plays on Friday nights it is not an issue for the two main Northern suburbs clubs, Super League Ryde City and 1st division Manly-Warringah Dolphins.

1st Division clubs will wait until the 23rd March, but can be sure of plenty of pre-season activity well before that. The 22 game Super League season will be well past the half way stage by the time the Ericsson Cup winds up in May.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Blacktown City Demons are first to show with Saturday 6 o'clock kick-offs, against Bankstown and Easts respectively. Pity about the Under 18s at 2 and the Under 21s at 4. There are lights at both grounds and one of the pre-requisites of summer soccer is adequate lighting, so Green Rover is not sure what the idea is when winter mid-week games are played at 8.30.

Ryde City will be sharing Wentworth Park with Eastern Suburbs next year pending the completion of improvements to the ground they intend to share with Macquarie University, which includes an amenties block and some kind of grandstand.

Elsewhere Macarthur Rams, Parramatta Eagles and Sutherland will go for a more sensible 7 pm. The Rams will persevere with the evening starts until the middle of May effectively all bar the lst two matches.

Bonnyrigg will mix up the 3 o'clocks and 6 o'clocks from April onwards and something must be happening at Pluim Park as Central Coast play the first 5 games away, a move which many clubs will frown upon.
The Coasties will play all except two of their home games on Saturdays at 6 pm, as has been their custom.

Newcomers, the promoted Fairfield Bulls, are at sixes and sevens for their early games with no predictable start time for the Nineveh Field matches, switching to 3 from May onwards. They are assured a bumper 'gate' for their season opener when they entertain very close neighbours Bonnyrigg on a Sunday night.

What are we to make of this draw?

Most neutrals are happy enough to go and watch an Ericsson Cup match, but given a choice of that or a nearby Super League game at the same time, they would hardly consider it a choice at all.

That leaves the committed supporters who may be going to national league matches for months before and then have their loyalties called upon to go back to the more mundane fare on offer locally. What has worked in the past, with partial success, has been winter season games at 3 from March onwards with supporters, especially of Olympic, going on to see the big game immediately afterwards.

Ryde and Easts are handicapped as they have the shared use of a perfect pitch, but at a ground with no lights. With daylight saving coming to an end after the first couple of games for each club, it is back to 3 pm kick offs for them very quickly. These are the two clubs least likely to have supporters torn between State and national league matches, ironically enough.

Green Rover would love to think that a raised profile for the game we all love during an exciting spring in Sydney will rub off, but with clubs as lethargic as (most of) these are and with little real push from headquarters, it is but a pipe dream.

If the people at Parklea really want to do something dramatic to lift attendances and standards they ar going to need a lot more than bits of paper. An action plan, a promotional push, a marketing strategy. These are what are called for and it is not enough to bring club representatives in for a pep talk as has been done for some years now. It needs leadership, with examples being set, profiles being lifted at the top and a proper sense of direction.

Many of the clubs have made progress in recent years and have some stability if not tradition behind them now.

Major ground improvements at Pluim Park, Central Coast, at Seymour Shaw Park at Sutherland, at the worryingly named Serbian Centre for Bonnyrigg and at Nineveh Field where the Fairfield Bulls begin their Super League charge this coming season all show that clubs are making the efforts needed to improve facilities. Ryde have serious plans afoot, Macarthur continue to grow and Canterbury have settled in well at
Henson Park.

Without the crowds to fill them these stadiums are in danger of being wasted resources and we only have to look at the tragedy that is St George, now back in 1st Division again and with a very clouded future, to see that bricks and mortar are never enough.

The Federation has a tough task to keep people talking soccer all year round for that is what they must do if they are to boost the paltry attendances around the state and the suburbs.

There will not be a weekend when a game is not being played somewhere and only the keenest and most resilient will be pulled along for that period of time.

Their best hope is to work on clubs in areas which are under-represented at national level, the Blacktowns, the Manlys and the Bankstowns as well as Central Coast and Sutherland, areas from which only small numbers are drawn to the main summer competition.

Green Rover is not optimistic about this happening, but as ever, lives in hope.

Look out for....

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1998
December
1998 World Club Championship (in Tokyo) - Real Madrid v Vasco da Gama

Major Events

1999	**Jan 9-20**	**FIFA Confederations Cup**	**Mexico**
1999	Feb 1	FIFA World Player of the Year gala	Barcelona
1999	Feb 12-14	Women's WC Final draw	USA
1999	April 3-24	FIFA World Youth Cup	Nigeria
1999	June 19 - July 10	Women's World Cup	USA
1999	Nov 10-27	FIFA U/17 Cup	New Zealand
1999	December	2002 WC qualifying draw	Tokyo
2000	June/July	European Championships	Holland/Belgium
2000	Sept 13-30	Olympic Games	Australia
2001	TBA	World Youth Cup	Argentina
2001	TBA	World Under 17 Championships	Trinidad & Tobago
2002	July/Aug	FIFA WORLD CUP	Japan/South Korea

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